

# THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS



No. 603.—VOL. XXII.]

FOR THE WEEK ENDING SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1853.

[SIXPENCE.]

## THE WINE DUTIES.

NORODY seems to care greatly for the repeal of the Malt-tax. It is highly productive, and as little burdensome as any tax can well be. Added to this it is a tax which concerns ourselves alone, and does not bring us into collision with the "foreigner." In this respect it is very different from the duty on foreign wines, which brings us into direct commercial hostility with our nearest and most powerful neighbour.

The new Emperor of the French has a decided tendency towards Free-trade, and as he has caused himself to be declared and accepted the sole maker and unmaker of commercial treaties on behalf of the French nation, it becomes the obvious interest of this country to encourage him in the development of a Free-trade policy, by the removal, as far as practicable, of all unnecessary impediments to a freer commercial intercourse between the two nations. Foremost amongst these impediments is the heavy duty levied upon the import of French wine—that great agricultural staple of our neighbours. If it can be proved that not only has the tax been the cause of national jealousy and animosity—perhaps of wars—but that it is actually less productive at the present time than it was in periods when our wealth and our population were less, there will, we conceive, be ample justification for a re-consideration of the whole subject by this country. We entered fully into these two branches of the inquiry in an article

published in this Journal on the 31st of July last. There are, however, some other points—less obvious perhaps—but equally important, which have since that period been brought prominently before the public, and which it is expedient to remember, now that a new Government is in office, and that the French Emperor is more than ever disposed to cultivate and extend his commercial relations with the great, and let us hope wise, nation that first set the world the example of Free-trade.

In England wine is an expensive luxury; in France it is the daily drink of the very poorest of the poor. A few years ago it was customary, and, probably, is yet so in the South, to keep in the hall of every respectable house or tavern, a large jug containing the wine of the country, which it was the duty of one of the servants to replenish when empty. From that jug every person about the house was at liberty to drink at all times as much as he pleased. Like a fountain placed by a pious Mussulman at the way-side, it supplied delightful refreshment to weary travellers. A similar custom obtains in other wine-growing countries; and in many of them wine is so cheap in abundant years, that it is of less value than the casks necessary to contain it. Quantities of it are allowed to run to waste, or the ripe and luscious grapes are given to the cattle. A liquid so precious and so difficult to be procured in England, is the produce of the whole of Europe south of 48 degrees latitude, and of a portion to the north of that line. Almost every country has its

own peculiar vintage. To enumerate the sorts or calculate the quantity made would be quite impracticable. The English people are only acquainted with a few French, Portuguese, Spanish, and German wines. As to the quantity, the empire of Austria alone, which we never hear of as a wine-growing country, is said to produce the enormous quantity of 600,000,000 gallons; and in France it is pretty well ascertained that, in 1850, upwards of 900,000,000 gallons were made.

Wine has been almost as long known as man himself. Noah, soon after the Deluge, planted a vineyard; and never since has the use of wine been forgotten. From the beginning of history wine and bread have been the chief objects of the husbandman's care: they have been united at all festivities; they have been made holy by religion; and they are still the chief sustenance of many millions of human beings. To all the peasantry of France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and a great part of Austria, wine is no more a luxury than bread; it is to them a staff of life. For us, who can get but little of it, it is merely a cordial—a restorative and a medicine. There is no reason, except taxation, why, with such a neighbour as France, so ready to trade with us, it should not be an article of daily diet.

The present duty is 5s. 6d. per gallon on all wines—the richest and the poorest—except Cape wine, which is undrinkable and chiefly used to adulterate other wines, and is admitted at a duty of 2s. 9d. Excellent wine, such as is allowed in abundant years to run to waste, is made in average years in many parts of the Continent at less than £4 a butt. Though some of the very choicest wines may cost £20, the average price of the common pleasant (and some of them very strong) wines of the south of Europe is not above £5 a butt. The wine measure varies in different countries. The Spanish butt contains 108 imperial gallons and Spanish wine at the above price will cost less than 1s. a gallon. Thus, on the general produce of the south of Europe we levy a duty of 5½ times its value. What should we say of the barbarian ignorance which should levy a duty on our cottons, on our iron, or on our cutlery, of 5½ times their value? That would be bad enough; but such a duty on such an article as wine is something quite enormous. It gives rise to an immense quantity of adulteration and fraud.

Our high duty, for example, induced the Government of Portugal to levy a duty on the port wine exported to England of £3 8s. 4d., while it levied, till within a very short time, a duty of only 6d. on wine exported to other countries. With certain additional charges, the duty made a difference of £6 a pipe in Oporto on wine exported to England and exported to America. To avoid that duty, wine was sent from Oporto to England by way of America. In 1851 no less than 119,297 gallons of Portuguese wine were imported from America into England. About six weeks ago the Portuguese Government reduced this exceptional duty. To spare human toil is the great aim of all invention; but the old duty, reversing all this, made it advantageous to send a ship twice across the Atlantic, performing a voyage of



7000 leagues when one of 400 would suffice. Before port wine is allowed to leave Portugal for an English market, it is, by direction of the Government, and under the monopoly of a company, coloured, strengthened, and fortified, mixed with elderberry juice, brandy, and the unfermented juice of the grape. It is more than wine when it leaves Portugal; and before it reaches the English consumer, it undergoes other manipulations, which often leave it with scarcely a trace of its original qualities.

A pipe of port wine is sometimes compounded in London of 50 gallons of cider, 60 gallons of Cape Pontac, paying a duty of only 2s. 9d., 5 to 10 gallons of British brandy, and cider added to keep the cask full, till all the ingredients are well blended together. Eight pipes of port wine of 115 gallons each, which can be sold for £70 a pipe, are manufactured at an expense of £401, out of the following materials:—2 pipes of Beni Carlos, at £38 a pipe; 230 gallons of Figueras, costing £90; a pipe and a half of Cape Pontac, costing £48; a pipe and a half of good port, £109; a pipe of common port, £63; 20 gallons of mountain, £11 8s. 7d.; washings of brandy-casks, elderberries, salt of tartar, gum-dragon, &c., in proportion; costing in all £401, including the payment of duties for 8 pipes of duty-paid port-wine, which are then worth £560. The revenue and the wine-drinkers are both defrauded by such concoctions.

England has other "vineyards" altogether her own. The above dishonest manufacture is carried on in secret vaults in Thames-street and other parts of the town. But the manufacture of British wines—of British port, of British sherry, and of British champagne—is carried on openly by about twenty licensed manufacturers, and with no fraud either on the public or on the revenue. In Ropemaker-street, in Bishopsgate, and in Pear-tree-street, and other crowded parts of the metropolis, our "vineyards" flourish. How different they are from the sunny slopes of Spain or Portugal, from the umbrageous vales of Italy, and from the vine-covered plains of France, we need not stop to describe. The great principle of division of labour, so essential to well-being in each nation, is in truth common to all society; and its operations are impeded by taxes, which drive a certain class of traders to manufacture wine in vaults and cellars and factories, of nobody knows what ingredients.

The British wine manufacture, exclusive of all the untold abominations practised in darkness by private dealers, produces about 600,000 gallons annually, equal to a tenth part of the wine we import. One gentleman, as we learn from the late Parliamentary investigation, has no less than 2000 customers on his books for the wine made in London. This gentleman, it appears, is by no means the largest manufacturer. Another gentleman has a stock of a million gallons of this kind of wine, worth £250,000, stored somewhere in the metropolis. The British plan has one convenience—it manufactures under one roof imitations of all kinds of wine. They are conveniently made, too, all about an equal strength; and with something like the conjuration of a Döbler, our manufacturers can draw out of one and the same vat, various kinds of wines, imparting, as they draw it, the peculiar flavour they wish it to bear. Various fruits give it the desired taste. To make champagne, French grapes, however, are employed, which is one mode of encouraging at once the growth of foreign produce and home industry, while the wine duties are evaded. The wine which comes from the Cape of Good Hope, and is so nauseous that nobody will drink it of itself, is a principal ingredient in making British port and British sherry; and, to give British port the genuine flavour, sometimes Portuguese grapes are used, and the bottoms of the elderberry-adulterated wine of the Oporto Company.

The price of British port and sherry to the trade is 5s. a gallon; and it can be retailed at 1s. 2d. or 1s. 3d. a bottle. British Champagne is sold to the trade at a guinea a dozen. In consequence of their comparative cheapness, the use of these wines is extending very much; and since 1833, when the duty on home-made sweets was abolished, the quantity annually manufactured has increased from 148,840 to 600,000 gallons. In such a trade there is no fraud; but it furnishes the materials for great frauds. The manufacture is quite legal, and so is the sale. British ports and British sherries—some of the materials of which pay duties, while others pay none, and which are worth 1s. 2d. per bottle—are very often sold, as the produce of Spain or Portugal, at the price of 3s. or 4s. a bottle. Chemistry extracts the most delicious scents from the most offensive substances, and British wine, manufactured by chemical rules, may be as wholesome as the foreign product; but, at least, it would be fair to the foreigner, consistent with the spirit of Free-trade, and honest towards John Bull, were he allowed to choose between the foreign and the home product on equal terms. To encourage native industry is extremely laudable; and the manufacturers of British wine tell us that their peculiar industry could not be practised were the wine duties greatly reduced or abolished. They admit, therefore, that a great quantity of foreign wine would then be imported; and, as all the wine imported would be paid for by the produce of British industry, the question is, whether spinning and weaving in Manchester, smelting and forging in Birmingham and Sheffield, and the general well-being of the country, would not be promoted by the abolition of the wine duties?

There is another question just now of very great importance. Every Christian nation ought to be interested in the prosperity and happiness of every other nation. Every country suffers at all times, in a variety of ways, from the ignorance and political debasement of its neighbours. In England we have lately been led to fear that the prejudices of our nearest ally might be operated on to such an extent as to hurl war on our shores. What right have we to expect from our neighbours co-operation or aid, when we cut off, as far as we can, all the friendly relations of commerce with them, by levying a duty on their chief produce of five-and-a-half times its value? How can we reproach them with political turpitude, when we set them such a bad example? Our enormous duty on wine is equally contrary to common sense and political principles. It stops exchange, it stops division of labour, it stops the growth of society, it stops the progress of knowledge, and continues those long-descended enmities of race and nation which it ought to be the mission of Christianity and the aim of civilisation to extinguish.

THOMAS WRIGHT, THE MANCHESTER PRISON PHILANTHROPIST.—In the Sketch of Mr. Wright, in the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS of last week, it was omitted to be stated that the Portrait is from a Daguerreotype by Mr. G. Stanley Bent, of Newmarket-lane, Manchester.

FIRST WINDMILL ERECTED IN NATAL.—Mr. Anderson, the engineer, has lately completed for Mr. Henning this mill, which is beautifully situated at Natal, and commands a fine view of the harbour, and the Indian Ocean; it can be seen for many miles out, and will, doubtless, be looked for by masters of vessels, as a beacon. Upon the first trial of the mill, all parts of the machinery were fully tested, and worked well; but soon after, the breeze suddenly changing, prevented grinding for the remainder of the afternoon, but enabled the engineer to show the sure and steady action of the break while he took in the sails.

CITY OF LONDON LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTION.—The members of this society, which was finally closed on December 31, are about to present a testimonial to their secretary, Mr. George Stacy, for the zeal and ability with which he has laboured for the interests of the institution during the twenty-seven years of its existence. £200 has been subscribed towards the fund for the above purpose, and another £100 is confidently looked for.

WESTERN HARBOURS.—There has been presented to Parliament, within the last few days, the report of the commission appointed to inquire into the merits of the western harbours of Ireland for the purpose of Transatlantic communication. Appended to the report are some very useful explanatory maps of the coast.

#### FOREIGN AND COLONIAL NEWS.

##### FRANCE.

(From our own Correspondent.)

PARIS, Thursday.

Everybody knows—and good care has been taken to let them know—that Russia has acknowledged France as an Empire, and Louis Napoleon as an Emperor; but everybody does not know—and good care has been taken to prevent their knowing—that the recognition was made nearly three weeks ago, but, in terms and with conditions so unsatisfactory to Louis Napoleon, that the matter was kept quiet while the offensive passages were being discussed, and the difficulties smoothed; in which, as we see, he has proved successful. The other powers who hung back have now come forward, and all goes swimmingly. *Sa Majesté* is gay as a lark; and the gossips entertain us with a thousand anecdotes, *plus ou moins vraies*, of his private proceedings.

All combine in wishing for an Empress; for it is a positive fact—apart from the tales of the gossips—that an extreme laxity of morals pervades the Court, and that many women decline to appear there, solely for that reason. The salons still ring with details of the proceedings at Compiègne; and though, doubtless, there is much of exaggeration in all this, that there were strong grounds for censure there is not the slightest doubt. The difficulty of finding an Empress, however, is not yet resolved.

We were promised, for the advent of the year, the most brilliant fêtes—public, private, and official. The promise still awaits fulfilment. Fêtes there are, but not in the number that were announced in any of these circles; they are, as yet, too few and far between; and the dancing world seems to find considerable difficulty in getting under way. On Sunday, the pet day here for all gaïties, the Princess Mathilde gave a grand ball, the invitations for which were thus couched: "Son Altesse Impériale la Princesse Mathilde prié M— de venir passer la soirée," &c. On the same night a brilliant reception, principally attended by the Faubourg St. Germain, took place at the magnificent hotel of Madame de Castellane. The ball at the Tuilleries, the Senate, and that announced for Saturday, at the Hôtel de Ville, are the great fêtes of the moment.

The theatres present nothing new of any great interest.

At the Français, *Louise de Signoreilles*, by Mlle. Rachel, has a moderate success.

At the Italiens, "Ernani" appears, under the title of "Il Proscritto," why, or wherefore, nobody seems to know. It is a subject of remark, that Mlle. Cravelli, while every now and then displaying all the evidences of the talent she really possesses, frequently shows a carelessness and want of study in the performance of her parts, anything but favourable to herself, or flattering to her audience. We all know the old saying, of the bird that can sing and won't sing. We hope Mlle. Cravelli will not force the public to remind her of the conclusion. With such resources as she possesses, the least she can be expected to do is to exercise them, and give full scope to her natural abilities.

The Vaudeville has two new pieces—"Le Baromètre des Amours," and a sufficiently amusing one, entitled, "Alexandre chez Apelles," which has nothing to do with Alexander or Apelles, but with a class de tout ce qu'il y a de plus moderne et de moins classique. The heroine is played with much spirit by the pretty and spirituelle Mlle. Farquell, who, some years since, had such a success at our St. James's. The ending of the piece is, however, somewhat lame, and spoils the ensemble of the thing.

The "Revue," which follows "Les Violettes et les Abeilles," has some of the most irresistibly comic scenes that it is possible to imagine. There is one so horribly, grotesquely graphical, between three portières, who play in the Funds, that it really is hardly a caricature of Macbeth's witches, mounting from the ridiculous to the sublime, from the force of passion and expression, vile and base as the passion and expression are. The charge of the death-struggle of Victor Séjour's "Richard III.," in which the hunchback is made to splutter "Auvergnat!" is one of those scenes, of which the intense absurdity becomes ludicrous beyond description; nothing can give any idea of the effect of this scene; it must be witnessed to conceive the effect.

The Gaieté is preparing for the long-promised representation of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," with the élite of its troupe, and has just engaged Mlle. Dinal, the youngest sister of Mlle. Rachel, to make her début in the part of *Evangeline*. This will be an object of no small interest in the theatrical world, in which the chances of success of the débutante are already matters of speculation.

A collection is being made of the works of Napoleon I., for publication, by a commission delegated by the Comité Historique, who are to class and arrange them according to their styles and subjects.

The Prince Napoleon has refused to accept the picket of five-and-twenty men, accorded to each of the immediate members of the Imperial family.

The extraordinary mildness of the weather continues to be such that it appears as though autumn were only giving place to spring without the intervention of winter. Accounts from the south declare that the summer fruits are actually ripening; and even here, the lilac and other spring-flowering shrubs have large flower-buds. As is generally the case in such seasons, much sickness prevails; typhus fever, smallpox, and influenza are peculiarly active.

An interruption in the diplomatic relations of France with Russia which a few days ago seemed inevitable, has been averted by the prudence and forbearance of Louis Napoleon. It appears that one at least of the great Northern Powers refused to give the new Emperor the customary appellation of *Monsieur mon Frère* in the letters to be presented by its Minister. The Russian Envoy in Paris, M. de Kisselleff, having communicated to the French Minister of Foreign Affairs the omission from his credentials of this expression of equality commonly used by one Sovereign to another, the French Cabinet positively determined to refuse to submit to what Louis Napoleon considered a slight, if not an insult. M. de Kisselleff in vain represented that the expressions "Sire" and "Your Majesty," which were employed, were the same as the Russian Cabinet had uniformly addressed to Louis Philippe, and which were accepted by the Ministers of that Sovereign. Louis Napoleon and his Ministers refused to receive the Russian Envoy, and M. de Kisselleff himself fully expected that his duties in Paris would be brought to an unpleasant termination. The matter was the more serious, as the Austrian and Prussian Ambassadors had purposely deferred presenting their credentials in pursuance of an understanding between these three great Powers to acknowledge the Emperor conjointly, or not at all. They had resolved that, if an objection were taken to the form of the recognition adopted by any one of them, it would suspend the act of recognition by all the rest. Some of the minor Powers of Germany were prepared to follow the example of Austria and Prussia.

But there were other, and perhaps more powerful reasons why Louis Napoleon should take counsel from his prudence, rather than from his resentment. The excessive speculations of the last few weeks upon the Paris Bourse, the increasing amount of defaulters, and the depressed state of the Funds rendered it probable that the abrupt departure of the Russian Envoy, and a suspension of diplomatic intercourse with the Great Powers, would be followed by a financial panic, and possibly, by a commercial revolution. It is hinted that there is at least one man in the Council of Louis Napoleon's Ministers whom any sudden depreciation of public and industrial securities would have plunged into total ruin. Add to this that the Empire of peace and of the industrial conquests inaugurated by the Emperor's speech at Bordeaux is plainly dependent for its realisation upon the maintenance of public confidence and the price of French Rentes. After an interval of anxious consideration, Louis Napoleon decided to act from policy rather than from feeling, and to receive the Russian credentials against the advice of some of his Ministers. The Court equipages were hastily ordered out, and at the late hour of four in the afternoon, M. de Kisselleff was ushered into the State apartments of the Palace. Louis Napoleon is said to be excessively mortified at the affront to which fiscal and financial necessity has alone compelled him to submit, and there are people who hint that his resentment will be implacable.

The Austrian and Prussian Ministers presented their credentials on Tuesday morning, so that the forms of diplomatic intercourse are now established between the French empire and all the states of Europe. The King of Prussia addresses the Emperor as "Monsieur mon frère," and this was the form employed by Queen Victoria. It is remarked as a curious circumstance, that even the Pope, whose capital is occupied by a French army, suspended his recognition of the Emperor of the French until he had ascertained from Vienna what course was to be pursued.

Mr. Rives, the American Minister, the Minister of Saxony, and the Turkish Ambassador have presented their letters accrediting them to the Imperial Court.

The Spanish Minister has notified to the Emperor the delivery of the Duchess of Montpensier of a daughter.

A few days ago M. Dupin demanded an audience of the Emperor, to beseech him to accord a delay beyond the period which he had fixed for the sale of the Orleans property, which was graciously accorded. Having obtained the object of his interview, M. Dupin made his bow, after formally refusing to accept the place of Procureur-Imperial at the Court of Cassation, which has for some time past been kept vacant, in the hope that this eminent statesman would condescend to accept it.

A hostile meeting took place on Wednesday, between Count Nieuwerkerke, Director of the Museum, and Col. Edgar Ney. The meeting has its principal interest in the fact of both being intimates of the Elysée. The name of a lady is said to be mixed up in the affair.

The Funds continue to be depressed, and there is a want of confidence in the Money Market, which unfavourably influences commercial affairs.

##### SPAIN.

A new decree upon the liberty of the press has appeared. The press is to be allowed to discuss all political subjects, with the exception of two, viz., "the monarchy, and, as its symbol, the unquestionable legitimacy of the throne of Donna Isabel II.;" and, secondly, "the representative principle fundamentally considered—i.e., the right of the nation to interfere in the affairs of government in the manner that the laws may determine." The Government and governors of provinces may suspend the publication of any number of a political journal. On the other hand, the qualifications of responsible editors and pecuniary penalties are lowered. The general feature of the new regulations is to put the press pretty much as it was before the April decrees were issued. Trial by jury is now done away with, and the former system of sending such cases before a tribunal of Judges of First Instance is substituted for it. It appears to be the conviction of the Ministers that the jury system is in no shape applicable for Spain. Upon the whole the new decree has given satisfaction to the public, as indicating a willingness to permit a wider range for discussion than that which is now permitted. The principle, however, of enacting laws affecting the rights of a nation by Royal decree, instead of submitting such grave questions to the consideration of the representatives of the people is essentially vicious. When a Ministry can make and abrogate laws at pleasure, the freedom of the press becomes a mere mockery.

##### PORTRUGAL.

The newly-elected Cortes assembled on the 2nd instant. The tariff has been simplified, but the reductions are slight, and disappoint the expectations of those who looked for the adoption of a system of Free-trade. It was generally believed in Portugal that the Government of Lord Derby intended to follow up the malt and hop-duty reductions by reducing the duty on wines; and it is said that the Portuguese Ministers held back their contemplated diminutions in the duties upon English manufactured articles until they could secure reciprocity in England, and obtain an assurance that no reduction will be made in French wines without including those of Portugal. Woolen cloths, cassimeres, cassins, &c.—plain, figured, or coloured—all pay 600 reis per lb. with 10 per cent bank-note tax for railways, and three per cent emoluments, the additional twelve per cent being taken off; and that twelve per cent appears in most articles to be the only reduction made. In cotton goods the alteration is very slight. Hardware, crockery, and glass have in some instances been considerably reduced. Ministers have devised a new system of direct contribution.

The Duke of Saldanha has stated to the Cortes that the dispute about the *General Armstrong*, which was referred to the arbitration of the President of the French Republic, had been decided in favour of Portugal. He also announced that the Queen had recognised the new Emperor, and accredited a Minister to the Imperial Court.

##### ITALY.

M. Madiai has sunk under his long and cruel imprisonment by the Tuscan Government. A private letter says:—

"The husband Madiai, less strong in body, and less vigorous in mind, than his wife, but not less constant in his faith, expired a few days ago, in captivity. It is satisfactory to know, that, within a short time of his departure, he received a visit of M. Colombe, a Swiss pastor, who administered to him the consolations of that faith for which he died; and that the unceasing efforts of the Romish priests to obtain his recantation entirely failed. The trials and virtue of martyrdom are not common in this age, for the greater liberty of professing the truth has lessened the danger and the honour of adhering to it."

##### GERMANY.

The Poor-laws gave rise to an animated debate in the first Prussian Chamber, on the 5th inst. Members of the Agricultural party declared it as their fixed opinion that alms are the prolific seeds of pauperism, and that Legislative provision for the destitute is practically the greatest cruelty towards the poorest classes, because it weakens self-reliance, prudence, and energetic labour, which alone can secure from destitution. They demanded not an amendment but an abolition of Poor-laws. The Chamber moved that the Ministry be requested to bring in a Poor-bill this session, when the debate will not fail to excite public interest.

In consequence of the expected raising of import duties in Hanover, pursuant to the September treaty, such large quantities of produce and wares are being imported, that the Custom-house warehouses are overfilled, and the railroads cannot deliver all the bales and barrels accumulating on their premises.

From Vienna we hear that the state of siege was not repealed on New Year's-day, as was expected. It is doubtful whether there is any intention at all of formally abrogating the supremacy of military jurisdiction in the Austrian capital, though, in fact, the military authorities have transferred the major part of their judicial and police functions to the civil officials. While the north of Germany is enjoying quite spring weather, in Austria and Hungary the Waag, Gran, and Sajo are frozen over, and in the Theiss blocks of ice are floating. Austria is increasing its army. Large bodies of troops are being marched into the Austrian territory bordering upon Montenegro.

##### DENMARK.

The Duke of Augustenburg has definitely sold his estates in Schleswig and Holstein for half a million sterling. The Grand Duke of Oldenburg has steadfastly refused to accede to the treaty for regulating the succession in Denmark and the Duchies. With reference to the petition to the German Diet in favour of the widows and invalid officers of the Schleswig-Holstein army, it is admitted that the King of Denmark bound himself to establish a fund of £10,000 a-year for the relief of such widows and invalids. This he has consequently done. The fund exists; but he entered into no engagement that the fund shall really be distributed.

##### PERSIA.

The sentence of death passed on the brother of the Shah of Persia, for having been concerned in the conspiracy of Teheran, has, on the intercession of the Ambassador of England, been commuted into exile.

##### HAVANNAH.

Intelligence has been received at the Admiralty that her Majesty's ship *Vestal*, 26, Captain C. B. Hamilton, was at Havannah on the 10th of December last—all well—and that a squadron of steamships, under his orders, were cruising in the neighbourhood. Considerable excitement prevailed in Havannah, owing to a British subject, Plassy Lawrence—who had been kidnapped from the island of Nevis, and sold into slavery at Havannah—having contrived to make her escape, and take refuge on board the *Vestal*. Application had been made by the British Government for the release of the poor woman, but in vain. The poor woman, Plassy Lawrence, and her children had been sold into slavery. The marks of the most savage flogging were evident on her back when she went on board the ship. The *Vestal* was under the guns of the batteries, and surrounded by the Spanish fleet, but her gallant captain would not listen to any proposal for giving her back to her inhuman masters; and she remains safe under the protection of the British flag.

##### CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

The Australian steamer has brought advices from the Cape up to the 30th November, ten days later than the news brought by the *Harbinger*. The disturbances on the eastern frontier are not yet settled; and, occasionally, collisions with parties of Kaffirs continued to occur. Governor Cathcart had arrived at the Orange sovereignty with 2000 men, and had issued a proclamation threatening rigorous and severe punishment to any chief, class, or tribe who should appear in arms, or resist the Queen's lawful authority. The enemy, however, had reappeared in some districts, and made successful inroads, so that this wretched war cannot yet be said to be at an end. The news from Australia had caused a rise in all the export markets. Several vessels were laid on for Melbourne, and many respectable persons formed themselves into parties well supplied with provisions, implements, &c., for a trip to the diggings.

at Bengara has not been fully tried, but promises well: a party of four obtained 200 ounces in less than six weeks, which gave them about £25 each a week after paying all expenses. At the gold mines, twenty-eight miles from Adelaide, about 400 people were at work, gathering, it is said, from 2 oz. to 3 oz. per day each. The deposit is of a similar quality, and realises the same price as at Melbourne. Rents at Adelaide have not risen, the run being still for the established gold fields, especially Bendigo.

The colony of Victoria is indubitably the richest gold-field in the world. The amount of gold brought into Melbourne up to August last was estimated at 1,770,000 ounces. Since that time there have been brought down by Government and private escorts, from Mount Alexander and Ballarat, 366,193 ounces. The Legislative Council estimate the present weekly yield of gold, taking the last three months as a criterion, at 80,000 ounces, which, at 70s. an ounce, gives a gross annual sum of £14,560,000.

The *Melbourne Argus* of September 27th says:—

In the first four weeks of the present month close upon *three hundred and seventy thousand ounces* have been conveyed from the diggings by escorts, in addition to the unknown quantities brought away by private persons, and still remaining in the hands of the diggers. Perhaps an average yield of one hundred and twenty thousand ounces weekly would not be an exaggerated estimate. At all events it is perfectly certain that the weekly yield is constantly increasing, with the number of diggers.

The estimate of £3 10s. an ounce is too low; Australian gold is said to be worth more than £4 per ounce; and therefore the weekly production of 120,000 ounces would amount in value to £480,000, or nearly £25,000,000 sterling per annum; and this does not include the gold obtained at Adelaide. There is every prospect of an increase of even this enormous amount. The *Argus* adds:—

Two important inferences are deducible from it—First that the capabilities of our gold fields are almost *without limit*, since the more they are worked the richer they appear; and second, that they offer remunerative employment to *any number of men who choose to labour in them with energy and perseverance*. These are the plain and practical facts upon which English workmen can find a safe judgment as to the wisdom of trying their fortunes at the diggings.

Great inconvenience is experienced at Melbourne for want of house accommodation. The population is swelled by the arrival of thousands of immigrants from England, while the carpenters, stonemasons, and brick-layers, who would otherwise be employed in buildings for their accommodation, were off to the diggings to earn an ounce of gold a week, and to become their own master. It is suggested that our builders would do well to send out houses in frame.

At Sydney the demand for labour is increasing. Shipwrights are getting 15s. a day; labourers on wharfs are paid 11s. a day, and three glasses of grog; printers have 12s. a day, and 1s. 6d. an hour over-time. All descriptions of building mechanics in demand: quarrymen, brickmakers, sawyers, and rough hands of that class, are just the men who do well at the diggings; they can stand the bush privation, and handling a pick or shovel is second nature to them.

The once brilliant Ballarat diggings are again resuming their former prestige. The escort from Ballarat brought down 503 ounces 16 dwts., having left no less than 4393 ounces 11 dwts. at Geelong.

The despatch of Sir J. Pakington, directing the gold revenue to be placed under the control of the Legislative Council gave great satisfaction to the colonists. The Government has proposed a measure for levying an export duty of half-a-crown an ounce on gold; but it remains to be seen whether this proposal will meet the approval of the Council.

Provisions were dearer. The price of the 4 lb. loaf was raised to 2s., and a scarcity of flour was anticipated.

The following extracts from letters from a young man in Australia, to his mother in London, give a graphic account of the diggings:—

MELBOURNE, July 20, 1852.

I told you of my start for the diggings, with my stores, when, as we had done very little good, owing to the obstacles thrown in our way by the continued wet weather, I sold off my stores at very good prices, and returned to Melbourne, which I reached again on the 5th of the month. I sold four, which I had given £3 per bag for, for £10; sugar, for which I had given 3d. per lb., at 1s. 6d., and so on. My two horses, cart, and harness cost me close on £80; I sold them for 3 lbs. 23 ozs. of gold, which, at £3 17s. per ounce was £110, the price agreed upon by the buyer; but I brought the gold to Melbourne, and sold it at 13 3s. per ounce, so that they brought me in £121, I making about £40 by the transaction. But such a sum as £40 is not thought much of here now, as gold-diggers think nothing of giving £50 or £60 for a couple of two-horse frys to drive a wedding party about the town for two weeks. There are one or two of these weddings here nearly every day, the party drive up one street and down another half the day, showing themselves off, getting gradually drunk as the day advances. You would stare in London to see such a wedding the whole party, excepting, perhaps, the bride and bridesmaids, smoking; and generally one, the drunkard of the party, leaning half over the back of the frys, black bottle in hand, inviting the public to have a "nobbler." One of these weddings frequently costs the "happy bridegroom" £300 or £400.

August 31.

People are flocking in from all countries now, and there is not accommodation for a tenth of them. Some have to sleep in sheds, &c., who never knew anything but a feather-bed in England. You cannot walk the streets of the city after dark without being armed. I never go out at night without having an open knife in my hand. Robberies are committed also in the open day with impunity, while the Legislative Council is debating whether they shall give policemen 7s. 6d. or 7s. 9d. per day, when no man now will work under 10s., at even road-scraping. There are marriage parties driving about every day, as I described in my last. I was at the Botanical-gardens last Sunday, and there were diggers' wives promenading most splendidly dressed in silks, satins, velvets, feathers, and jewellery, who had been servants in situations a week before.

September 2.

There are about 1500 people arriving here every week; this number will soon be 2000; hitherto we have only had them from the surrounding colonies; the stream is now coming in from all parts of England. Everybody now is doing well that the weather will permit to do anything. In nearly every shop, such as a tailor's, there is a bill up with "thirty good hands wanted!" carpenters are advertised as being wanted, wages £1 per week; dressmakers and milliners in proportion, and more than they can do. Pastrycooks are making small fortunes from mere wedding-cakes, one about six or eight inches diameter costing £4 or £5; if it is £4 the digger throws down a £5 note, and takes a handful of gingerbread-nuts as change. Melbourne is literally crowded with "new chums," who are at their wits' end where to lay their heads. They stand with open mouths at the windows of the gold-brokers' shops, admiring the golden show; the window is generally set out with three or four glass vases filled with gold, large pieces of the same metal being placed separate when weighing above a pound or so; the rest of the window is generally filled up with rolls of bank-notes and piles of sovereigns. All this, reflected by a looking-glass, forms a very attractive sight to newly-arrived gold-seekers. Some of the houses contain a value of from £5000 to £10,000. Land, and everything else, is fetching great prices, particularly in near town. Some in one of the best situations in the city fetched £210 per foot frontage, 38 feet deep; this was last week. The private escort arrived in town at two o'clock this morning, carrying 32,000 ounces. The Government one is not yet in. Market price of 1s. 6d. per ounce—Cauliflower, 1s. each; cabbages, 1s.; potatoes, 12s. per cwt.; new ditto, 1d. per lb.; green peas, 1s. 3d. per quart, unshelled; turkeys, 20s. each; geese, the same; ducks, 12s. per pair; fowls, the same; eggs, 3s. per dozen, coming down; butter, 2s. 6d. per lb.; English cheese, 2s. 6d.; milk (and water), 1s. 4d. per quart; one "pennyworth" of watercresses, 1s. 6d.; radishes, 1s. per dozen; "three-pennyworth" of greens, 2s.; a "£20" house, £150. But I have no doubt that things will soon come more to a level.

#### RE-ELECTIONS.

CAVAN (Ireland).—Sir John Young, Bart., Chief Secretary for Ireland.

SOUTH WILTS.—Tuesday, Mr. S. Herbert, Secretary-at-War, was re-elected for the southern division of Wiltshire, without opposition.

DUMFRIESSHIRE.—Viscount Drumlanrig, Comptroller of the Household.

HADDINGTONSHIRE.—The Hon. F. W. Charteris, one of the Lords of the Treasury.

LIMERICK (County).—Mr. W. Monsell, Clerk of the Ordnance.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY.—Close of the eighth day's poll:—Gladstone, 929; Perceval, 864: majority, 125. Ninth Day: Up to half-past four no return had been received in town by the committee of either candidate.

COLONIAL AND INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE.—At a meeting of the council of this society, held on the 6th of January, 1853, it was resolved—"That the first object of the association is to extend the system of uniform penny postage, already in operation between the United Kingdom and the Channel Islands, to the whole of the British colonies and possessions. The total amount of postal revenue derived from all the colonies does not exceed £200,000 a-year. The whole, obviously, could not be sacrificed by the measure proposed; but it would be sound national policy to abandon even the whole to promote in so eminent a degree the commerce, education, freedom of communication, and friendly relations between the colonies and the mother country."

FIRES.—Within the last few days the metropolis has witnessed a very unusual number of fires. We subjoin most of them:—At a late hour on Saturday night, on the premises of Mr. Solomons, furniture dealer, Nos. 45 and 46, Holborn-hill; but, owing to the timely aid afforded, it was confined to the counting-house on the first-floor. On Sunday morning, at two o'clock, at 454, West Strand, formerly belonging to Mr. Wyld, the map-maker. The extensive oil warehouse of Mr. Gardner being next door, and Morley's Hotel running over the building, led many to fear that a terrible conflagration would ensue. No damage, however, was done to the property of Mr. Gardner, nor yet to Morley's Hotel. The premises of Mr. Dowie, elastic boot and shoe-maker, No. 425, have sustained some damage by water. On Monday night, at the house of Mr. J. M. Clark, baker, No. 50, Essex-street, Kingsland-road, which destroyed the lower part of the house, and seriously damaged the upper portion. Insured in Star office.

On Tuesday morning, the engines and firemen of the London Brigade were in active service at the Royal Tent, Silver-street, Golden-square, about four o'clock, the back rooms on three floors, with their contents, were destroyed; most of the roof and other parts of the house and furniture seriously damaged. The landlord, Mr. Wilcox, is insured in the Monarch office. Two houses adjoining, Messrs. Higgs and Stratten, butchers; backs of houses and roofs damaged, and contents injured by water. The two latter families not insured. Cause of fire unknown.—Parliament-wharf, Redford and Co.: lobbies on the wharf damaged by fire.

—No. 9, Union-place, Tabernacle-square, Old-street: house of Mr. Rowlandson, paperhanger. The partition between shop and counting-house destroyed; shop stock greatly damaged; and upper part of house and furniture by smoke. Cause unknown. Insured in the Royal Exchange and Monarch offices.—No. 1, Bell-alley, Golden-lane: house of Mr. Carter. Bed and bedding on first floor destroyed; from spark of a candle. Not insured.—10, Ray-street, Clerkenwell: slight damage to the house and furniture of Mr. Hilditch, bootmaker; second-floor back room. Not insured.—No. 51, White Horse-street, Cornwall-road, Lambeth: house of Mr. Lee, slate-frame maker. Front room on first floor destroyed, and other damage. Not insured. Caused by a spark from the stove.

#### THE YELLOW FEVER.

SOUTHAMPTON.—The *Magdalena* (Royal West India steam-ship), Capt. Vincent, arrived in this river on Saturday, having left St. Thomas' on the 21st ult. The freight on board consists of 1,400,000 dollars; gold-dust, £50,000; British coin, £10,000. The specie amounted in the whole to about £1,700,000; and it was stated that, amongst the specie, 48,622 dols. were on account of Mexican Dividend.

Soon after she arrived at her moorings, off Netley Abbey, she was visited by the Custom-house officers, with Mr. Webbin, the medical officer. Captain Vincent and Dr. Symons, having been put on their oath, declared that the *Magdalena* left St. Thomas' on the 21st Dec., with a doubtful bill of health; that, soon after leaving St. Thomas', the yellow fever broke out on board, and that eight persons had died, most of them of the fever. The last case of death from yellow fever happened on the 28th ult. That other deaths had taken place since that time, but not from fever; that the only person then ill on board was Mr. Brewer, the storekeeper, who broke his back from falling into a boat at St. Thomas'. The ship had been fumigated and ventilated in every possible manner. The invalids were mustered on the sponsor, and they were declared to be convalescent. Pratique was given, and the mails and passengers were immediately sent ashore in boats, and the packet entered the dock next morning. Several persons had been attacked on board by fever, but had recovered: among them the commander, Captain Vincent. He was dangerously ill, and while lying sick he made an effort to go on duty during a gale of wind, and by that means shook off the fever and recovered. He is a fine powerful man, but his hair has turned completely grey during the last voyage. When he arrived out at St. Thomas' he heard of the death of his son (the youth who was saved from the *Amazon*), from yellow fever at the Bahamas. The news of young Vincent's death was brought to Southampton by the last ship, but his mother was not made acquainted with it on account of her ill state of health, and the melancholy task of revealing her loss to her has devolved upon her husband.

The yellow fever still rages in the West Indies. Among those who have died since the last advices are, Mr. Jones, of the *Dee*; the chief engineer of that ship; Mr. Osborn, second officer of the *Esk* (nephew of Captain Chappell); Mr. Kergevan, fourth officer of the *Conway*; and the first and second engineers of the *Thames*.

The mortality on board her Majesty's ship *Dauntless*, from yellow fever, has also continued, and the deaths at the last date amounted to sixteen officers and sixty men. The *Dauntless* was at Barbadoes. All that were left of the crew were on shore in canvas tents.

The Admiralty have published the following return of officers who have died of yellow fever between Nov. 17 and December 6, belonging to that ship.

A. C. Cowper, mate; W. Stimpson, mate; J. J. Henwood, assistant eng. 3rd class; A. Neale, lieutenant; A. L. Hinde, chief eng.; H. T. Nutall, second master; W. W. H. Richards, assistant eng. 3rd class; C. Martin, assistant eng. 2nd class; R. M. Floud, sub. lieutenant; J. Crispin, midshipman; C. Kent, lieutenant; St. George C. S. Davis, assistant eng. 2nd class; E. Death, passed clerk.

The first boat which came ashore on Saturday following the *Magdalena* was beset by a crowd of poor men, women, and children, and the scene of hands and exclamations of joy were plentiful as the names of those that were dead and those that were alive were mentioned.

#### THE CONVICT KIRWAN, AND THE NEW CHARGE.

Ireland, and, indeed, the United Kingdom, have recently been made acquainted with the trial at Dublin of a painter named Kirwan, for the murder of his wife, under very singular circumstances, in "Ireland's Eye," when he was found guilty, and sentenced to death. Much controversy has arisen as to the justice of the verdict, and meetings to debate the point have been held. In the end, the culprit received a reprieve from death, and was ordered for transportation for life, which sentence would have been carried into effect, but from serious illness preventing his removal. In the mean time, a new and almost as monstrous a supposition has arisen, regarding another supposed murder. It seems that Kirwan allowed a widow, named Boyer, £40 per annum, in order to stop any inquiries regarding pictures and other property which her husband had given or lent to Kirwan; and on his sentence being made known, the widow was induced to come forward, for fear of losing her annuity, and this had led to the following charges:—

A new indictment in the case of Mrs. Downes Boyer against W. B. Kirwan and others, for conspiring to rob and murder W. D. Boyer, a miniature painter. It appears that in 1836 Mr. Boyer resided with his wife at No. 4, Middle Mountjoy-street, and that they lived on terms of perfect mutual affection. Mr. Boyer was a miniature-painter, and had a collection of valuable pictures and works of art. He became acquainted with Kirwan in May, 1836, and frequently invited him to his house; and at this period Kirwan resided in Parne's Place, and also occupied two top rooms in South King-street, as anatomical draughtsman, but was principally occupied in colouring the Ordnance survey maps. About October, 1836, he induced Mr. Boyer to pay a visit to his house, and afterwards to reside with him; and his father and himself, together with two sisters (one of whom has since died), it is alleged, entered into a conspiracy to destroy the life of the old artist, then upwards of sixty, and to get possession of his property. When Mr. Boyer had been about three weeks residing with Kirwan (who during this period endeavoured, by every means, to alienate him from his wife), the latter persuaded the old man to consent to hand all his property, to the amount of £3000, over to him; and these were transferred to Kirwan's house in Parnell-place, subsequently to Fleet-street, and thence to D'Olier-street. The manner in which the property was removed from Mountjoy-street is very remarkable. Kirwan and several companions proceeded at one or two o'clock in the morning to the residence of Mrs. Boyer, to which they gained admission on the plea that they had been sent by her husband; the lady and her servant girl were locked up in one of the apartments, and the house was completely gutted of every article of value. For this offence Kirwan was tried before the Recorder, and was acquitted on a technical point of law. At this time Kirwan had several young men in his employment to colour maps, &c., whom he could not always pay for so doing. In the year 1837 fresh proceedings were threatened, but which were compromised, a deed of separation executed, and an annuity of £40 settled upon her, which has been regularly paid by Mr. Vincent, her solicitor; but from this period, in fact for several months antecedent to it, Mrs. Boyer had never been able to see or hear anything respecting her husband.

About this time, it is also asserted, that he seduced the servant girl who was in the house; and likewise a female connected with a highly respectable family, whom he abandoned and left in a very destitute condition in Holyhead. This girl was since in Dublin, and died in a wretched condition a short time since. Immediately on Kirwan's departure this unfortunate young woman became ill, and was confined to her bed for seven months; and it was generally believed, that her ill health was occasioned by recourse having been had to unfair means. A brother of the deceased, finding he could in no ways shame Kirwan, watched for him, and severely horsewhipped him. For this offence Kirwan was prosecuted his assailant to conviction, but the Court considered that justice was fully satisfied by the verdict, and merely sentenced the defendant to be imprisoned until the rising of the court.

Soon after this time Mrs. Boyer made frequent applications for information about her husband, but was told that Kirwan did not know where he was residing. In 1840 Mrs. Boyer saw the Rev. Mr. Nixon, and that gentleman called upon Kirwan, but he refused to give any explanation, and denied all knowledge of Mr. Boyer, although the annuity had been regularly paid to Mrs. Boyer by Mr. Vincent, who never asserted that Mr. D. Boyer was dead.

During 1839, Kirwan's sister (who has since died) appeared much confused when asked about Mr. Boyer; and stated, after some searching questions had been put to her, that she had never seen him or known anything about him.

In this brief sketch, from 1837 to 1852, no allusion has been made to his marriage with the unfortunate lady whose remains were found on Ireland's Eye, or the still more unfortunate connection with Miss Kenny, as the particulars of these cases were fully entered into at the recent trial.

Kirwan was not examined on Monday, as was expected, on the above new charges, but was forwarded to the convict dépôt at Spike Island. It is stated that several days must elapse before the numerous depositions will be in a state for adjudication before the magistrates.

Later information states that the grounds, &c., at Kirwan's late residence have been closely examined, and a coffin, 2 feet by 2 feet 3 inches, found. When opened the contents were ascertained to be the bones, &c., of a child two years old. Further search is being prosecuted.

FUNDED AND UNFUNDED DEBT.—By a printed Parliamentary return, it appears that, on Jan. 1, 1852, the unredeemed funded debt was £765,126,582 2s. 2d., and the decrease £4,145,979 1s. 9d. The unfunded debt on Jan. 1, 1852, was £17,742,800, and the decrease (no increase) was £13,100.

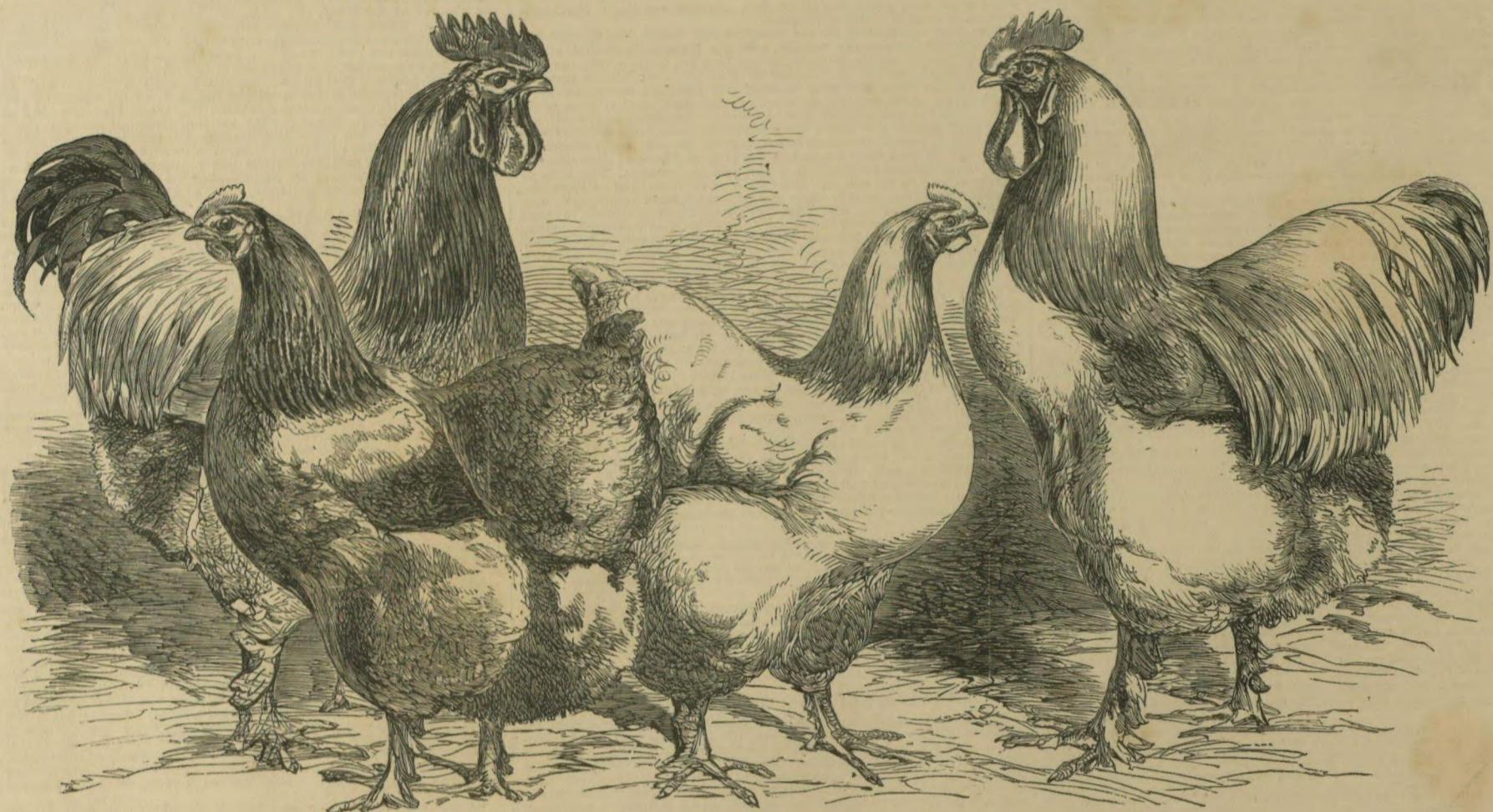
BRANDY.—Since April last the price of brandy in France has experienced a rise of 75 per cent.—4s. 3d. to 7s. 6d. per gallon; and the quantity bought for this country between October and the present time has been larger than at any former period. The difference in the quantity imported during the month ending the 5th of December would alone amount, in money value, as compared with the corresponding month of 1851, to little short of £150,000.

An American newspaper says:—Fifty years ago steam-boats were unknown—now there are 3000 afloat on American waters alone. In 1800 there was not a railway in the world—now there are 10,000 miles in the United States, and about 22,000 in America and England. Then, it took some weeks to convey news from Washington to New Orleans. Then, the most rapid printing-press was worked by hand-power—now, steam prints 20,000 papers an hour on a single press. "Now" is a great fellow, but will be much bigger half a century hence.

#### GREAT METROPOLITAN POULTRY EXHIBITION.

The first Show of the Society for establishing an annual Exhibition of Poultry, Pigeons, and Rabbits, was opened to the public on Tuesday, and continued to Friday evening. The society enjoys the patronage of many noblemen and gentlemen of distinction, including the Duke of Rutland, the Marquis of Salisbury, the Earls of Derby, Stanhope, Cottenham, Stradbroke, Harrington, Lord Hastings, Lord Sandy, the Marquis of Granby, and Lord Guernsey; and one of its main objects is, according to its rules, "to afford an opportunity to the public to improve their collections." It is therefore provided that all the specimens figuring in the show shall be offered to competition by public auction during the exhibition, the proprietors being required to state the value they place upon the birds or animals which they exhibit, although they are not precluded from naming a prohibitory price. The Exhibition was originally announced to be held in the

## PRIZES FROM THE GREAT METROPOLITAN POULTRY SHOW.



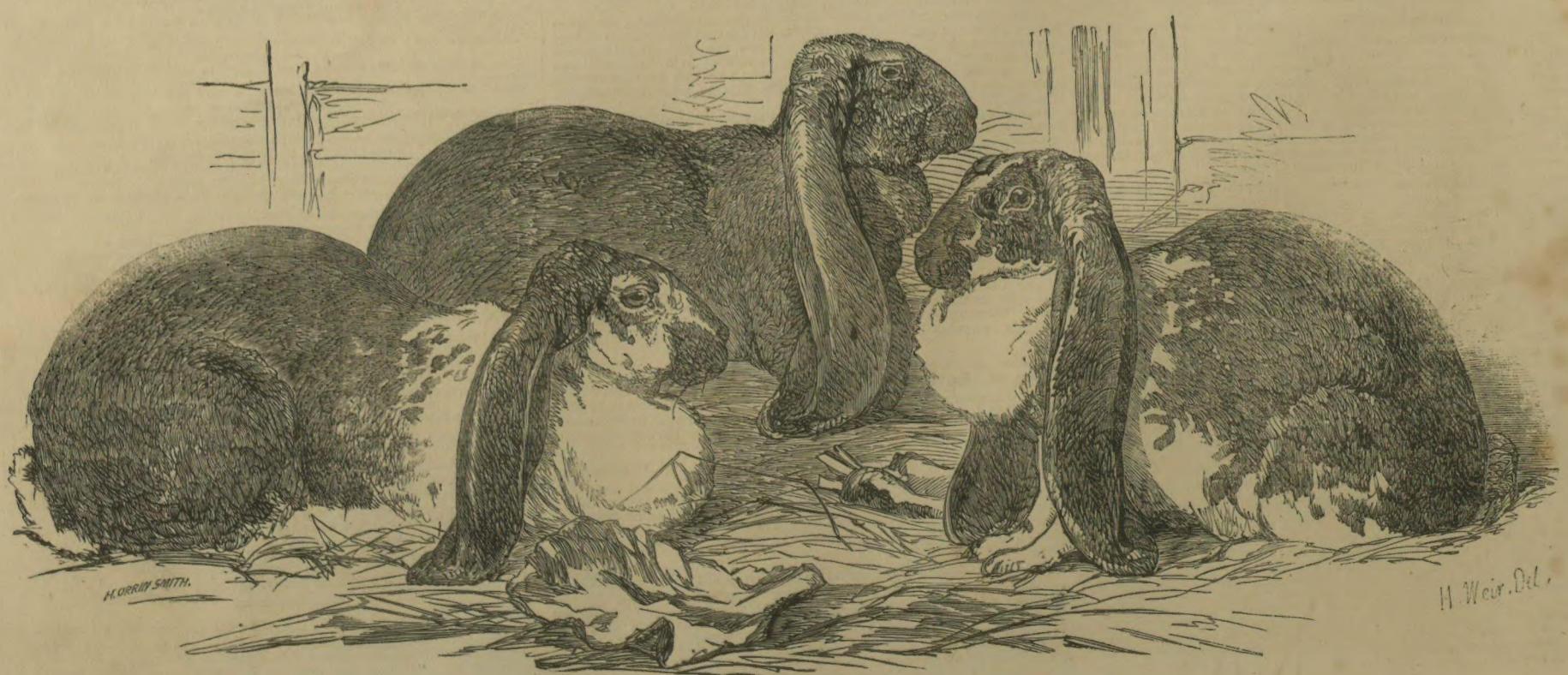
COCHIN-CHINA FOWLS.—CLASS 13, FIRST PRIZE.—MR. JOHN FORREST, HAVERHILL.

COCHIN-CHINA FOWLS.—CLASS 11, FIRST PRIZE.—MR. JOHN FAIRLIE, NEWMARKET.

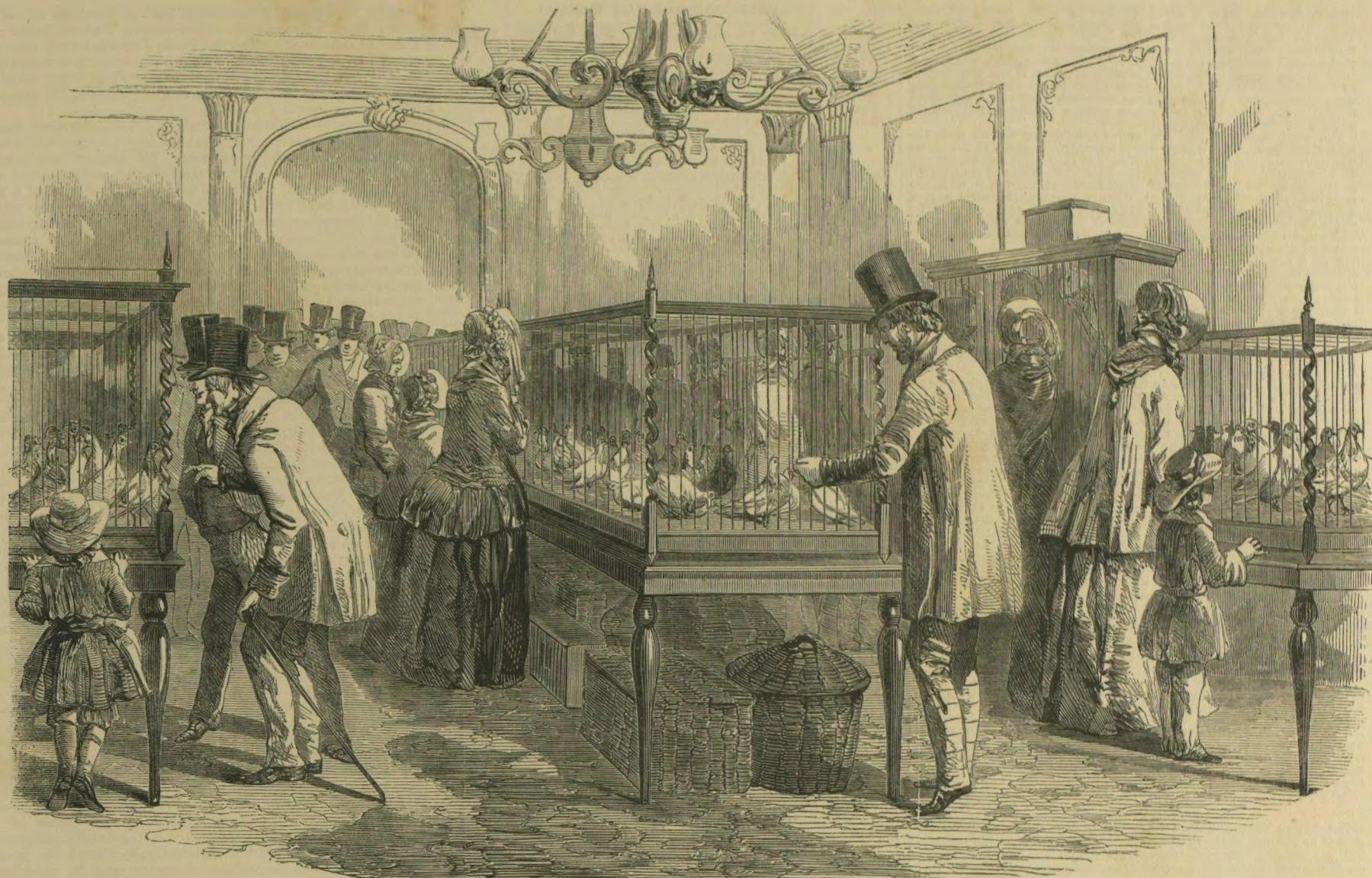


BANTAMS.—WHITE.—CLASS 46, FIRST PRIZE.—REV. J. F. HODSON, BRISTOL.

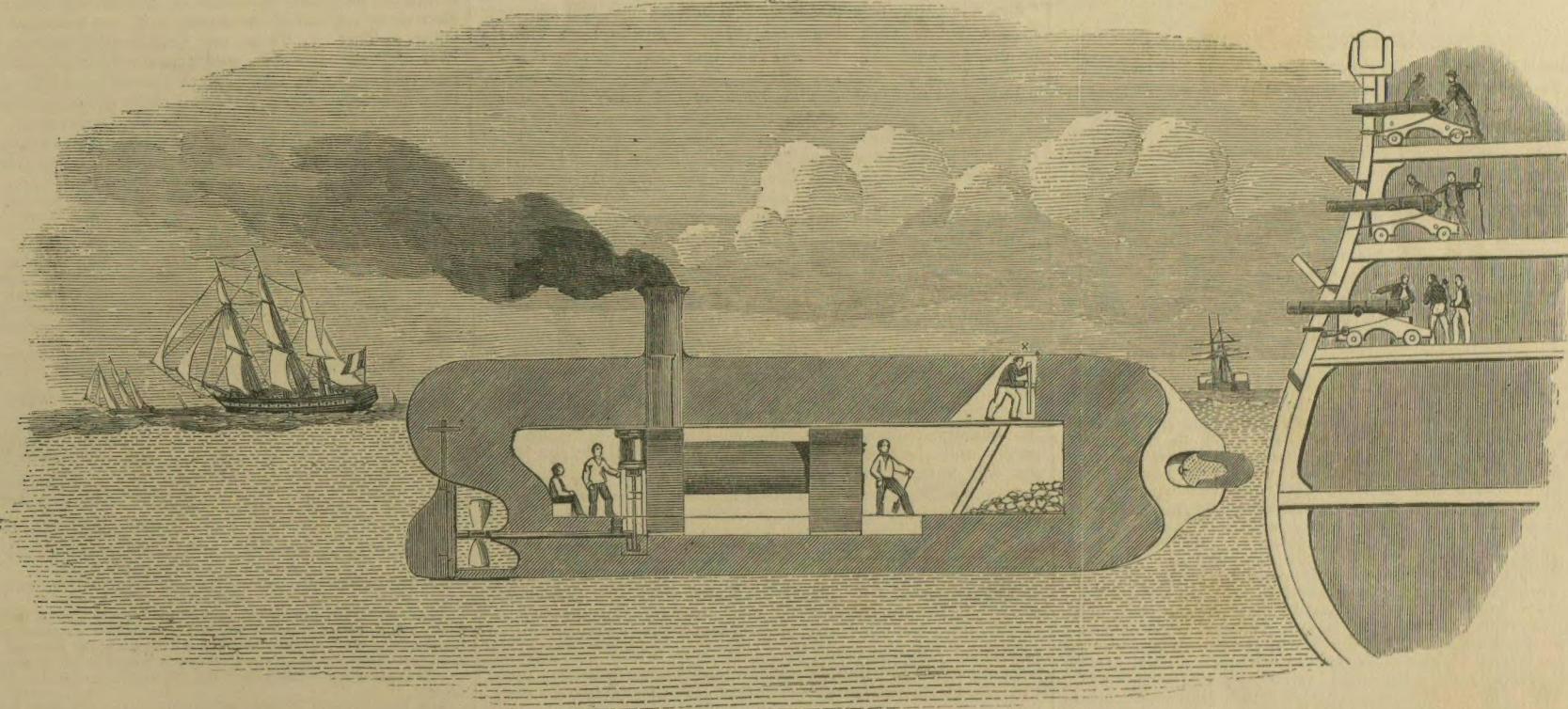
BANTAMS.—BLACK.—CLASS 46, FIRST PRIZE.—MR. J. FAIRLIE, NEWMARKET.



PRIZE RABBITS.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)



ANNUAL PIGEON SHOW OF THE PHILO-PERISTERON SOCIETY.—(SEE NEXT PAGE.)



NASMYTH'S ANTI-INVASION FLOATING MORTAR.

## A NEW IMPLEMENT OF DESTRUCTION.

We have been favoured by Mr. James Nasmyth with the following description of the means which he has devised "for destroying, by one masterly blow, the largest ship of an invading enemy." Mr. Nasmyth adds, prefatory—

The means in question consist of no "long range" secret nostrum; but on the contrary, a very short range, resulting from a union of the most effective destructive agencies of well-known and established character, combined in so simple, common-sense, and effective a manner, as to be certain to yield results such as, I doubt not, would cast into shade all modes hitherto proposed for the destruction of the ships of an invading enemy.

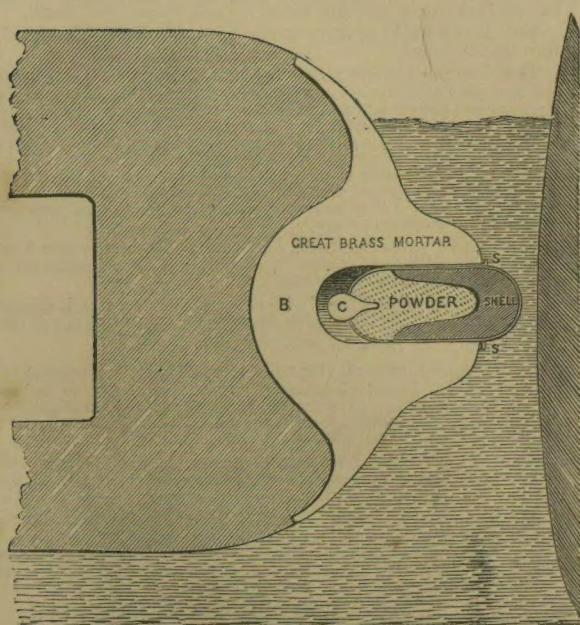
I beg to submit and offer this design for the service of my country, and trust that a fair trial may be granted, so as to test its merits in the fullest degree; and should the result be found to confirm what I anticipate, I shall consider myself most fitly and amply rewarded by the gratification I shall feel in having thus devised so efficient, simple, and economical a means of protecting our harbours and coasts from the attack of an invading enemy.

The principles on which the arrangement and construction of the Floating Mortar is based, consist in the first place of a monster self-exploding shell, so arranged as to explode on having its breach end crushed against the breach of the Mortar; the self-exploding cap being situated there, as will be seen on reference to the Illustration.

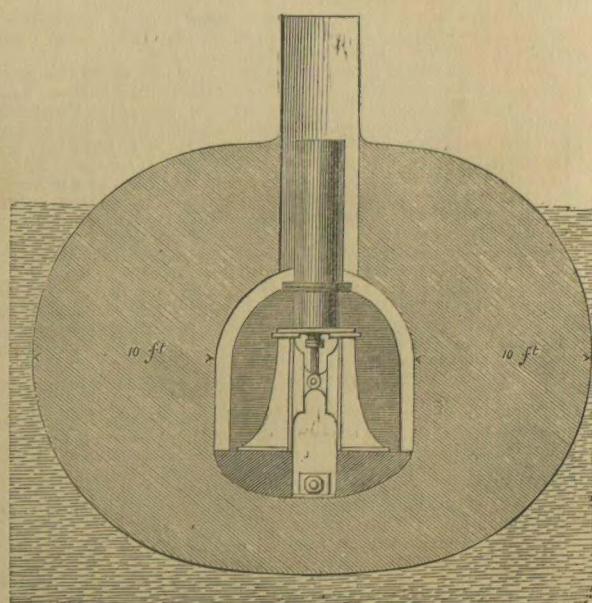
In order to enhance the destructive effect upon the enemy's ship, the shell is so far submerged as to tear its way into the enemy six feet under water-line.

Next, to protect the shell from the effect of water while resting in the chamber of the mortar, it is rendered water-proof, by being inclosed within a perfectly water-tight copper case, which will so effectively secure it from the action of the water, as that it may remain, if need be, for years in the chamber of the mortar, submerged, as before said, six feet under water-line, and ready for service at any time.

The crush consequent on coming in contact with the side of the enemy is the agent whereby the monster shell is made to explode. A very moderate velocity of the Floating Mortar would, when brought up against the side of the enemy, prove sufficient for this purpose; so much so, that, in order to obviate the chance of its explosion by accidental contact with any other object, I have so placed the flange joint of the copper case against the mouth of the Mortar, that the crush against the side of the



BRASS MORTAR AND SHELL.—ENLARGED VIEW.



FLOATING MORTAR.—TRANSVERSE SECTION OF.

enemy, resulting from a speed of two or three miles per hour, shall be sufficient to overcome the resistance of this flange, and crush the self-exploding cap at the breach end of the shell against that of the mortar, and so cause it to explode and tear its fearful way through the side of the enemy. Thus it will be evident that we can never fail to render the shell effective, in as much as that it is the very fact of contact with the side or hull of the enemy that brings the self-exploding agency into action. No ship that has ever been built, whether of wood or iron, could survive the fearful hole which a monster shell, exploded under such circumstances, would produce.

The next feature is the intimate union of our mortar with the hull of the screw steam-vessel, which transports it direct to the object which we desire to destroy. The mortar is (as will be seen on referring to the engraving) made part and parcel of the vessel, and so situated as to unite the most effective mechanical arrangement with the strongest position of the vessel—viz., "end on," so that the entire mass of our vessel (mortar and all) is brought into play, as the means whereby the concussion or recoil due to the explosion of the shell is absorbed by the entire mass of the Floating Mortar, so that no sensible recoil or concussion would be experienced.

Next is the manner in which the crew who attend to the navigation of the Floating Mortar, together with the steam-engine, boiler, and screw, are protected from the action of shot, whether red-hot or cold. This object is attained by giving the vessel, in all directions where assailable, such a thickness of timber as that no shot, of whatsoever description, can penetrate to the interior. To insure this, the hull of our Floating Mortar will be made at least ten feet thick, of poplar wood, which material is admirably adapted for the purpose, by reason of its lightness, toughness, and incombustibility. Red-hot shot might lodge in it, but would fail to set it on fire. A red-hot shot would only char a few inches of the timber around it, and cool at its leisure; and from the extent to which the hull would be submerged, the portion above water presents no surface favourable for the effective action of shot; whilst, as there will be most ample accommodation in the interior for a high-pressure engine and boiler, with direct action screw-propeller, there is nothing to prevent our obtaining a velocity of eight or nine miles an hour, although for the actual objects of the vessel a speed of five or six miles would be ample. The draught of the engine-furnace would cause perfect ventilation for the crew, which need not consist of more than three or four handy men.

I would observe, in conclusion, that as this class of vessel is chiefly designed for *defence against invasion*, and would not have to act against an enemy, probably, at greater distances than one or two miles from our shore, it could speedily return for another shell; the means for lodging which in the chamber of the submerged mortar are most simple, but not needful at present to describe. I conceive, however, that the total destruction of one enemy's ship at each trip would be sufficient service.

Three or four such floating mortars, each of which sending to the bottom of the sea the largest ships an invading enemy might dare to bring towards our shore, would make such a demonstration as would strike terror into the largest fleet that molested a peaceful nation; and not fail to confirm the maxim, that the best way to prevent war is to render the results so terrible as that evil-disposed nations will think twice ere they face such wholesale destruction as our floating mortars would not fail to deal out to them.

I trust, therefore, that our Government will not permit this system of effectual defence to remain a mere notion, but afford the public an opportunity to judge of its efficiency by the most full and fair trial. We are about to expend millions of money in improving our means of defence. All I ask for is that £5000 or so be expended in testing the merits of my plan of defensive vessel. The only reward I look for is the high gratification I shall feel in having in this form placed any skill in contrivance which I may happen to possess at the service of my country, in reference to an object of the highest national importance.

Bridgewater Foundry, Patricroft, Jan. 11th, 1853. JAMES NASMYTH.

#### THE ILLUSTRATIONS.

In the large Engraving upon the preceding page, the Floating Mortar, steered by the man at the sight-hole, X, is shown attacking the enemy.

2. An enlarged view of the Great Brass Mortar and Shell. The cap c explodes the instant it is brought in contact with the breach b; this it does in consequence of the protruding end of the shell being crushed against the side of the enemy. The flange ss is just so strong as to resist any ordinary pressure, and is thereby made safe till crushed back by contact with the side of the enemy.

3. Transverse section of the Mortar.

#### PIGEON-FANCIERS' SHOW.

THE annual show of the Philo-Peristeron Society was held on Tuesday, at the Freemasons' Tavern, Great Queen-street. It was attended by great numbers of ladies and gentlemen, the friends of the amateurs who form this society. A prettier sight for ladies can hardly be imagined than was presented by the beautiful plumage and graceful carriage of this interesting class of birds, exhibited in their handsome mahogany pens with iron bars, the bottom of the pen being usually covered with green baize. The show on Tuesday was one of the best ever yet held, and sufficiently evinced the improvement in the various breeds effected by the society since its establishment seven years ago.

The Almond Tumbler, of which some pens of rare beauty were shown, is the pigeon which holds the first rank in the estimation of the fancier. The qualities for which he is valued are—a round small head, fineness of beak, and a certain quaint affection in his carriage. The Almond Tumbler is a neat, prettily-shaped little bird, having the well-known habit of throwing a series of summersaults in his flight—a quality, however, which we are assured enters very little into the estimation of the real fancier by comparison with peculiarities of form.

The Carrier Pigeon ranks next in the opinion of the fanciers; and, indeed, these two varieties are the only two which the real fancier highly appreciates. The electric telegraph, however, has converted the carrier pigeon into a relic of a past age, and the representative of a past state of things. He is to the electric wire what the old stage-coach or the horse-express is to the railway train. Before the era of electric telegraphs the transit of a message by a carrier pigeon was the quickest mode of communication, and the knowledge of many great and important events has been conveyed to distant communities, by the instinct of these wonderful little messengers. Formerly, Antwerp possessed the breed of birds that were reckoned to fly the fastest and with the greatest certainty from place to place. The Antwerp Carriers were unusually long in the wing; but this quality claims no merit with the modern fancier. A good shape, long, straight head, and unusual length from the eye to the tip of the beak, are the characteristics by which connoisseurs measure the value of this variety.

The Fantail Pigeon, as an ornamental bird, in a poultry-yard, claims some attention from the fancier; and a very pretty, pert, strutting little fellow he is. No lady is more particular about the snowy whiteness of her morning dress than is the Fantail as to the cleanliness of his plumage. To be perfect, he should have thirty-six feathers in his tail. His shape and carriage should be such as enable him at pleasure to cause the back part of his head and his tail feathers to meet.

The Pouter Pigeon was represented by some large and splendid specimens. The enormous size to which some of these birds inflated their crop with wind made them objects of great curiosity.

Space would fail us if we entered into a minute description of the Nuns, Jacobins, Helmets, Owls, Trumpeters, Runts, Swallows, Spots, and Turbuts which graced the pens in the large room of the Freemasons' Tavern. We must not omit, however, to notice a few new varieties from Germany, many of which exhibited the rarity of white bars upon the wings, instead of the black cultivated by English fanciers. Some of these German varieties promise to be useful accessions to our English breeds; but, after all, the best pigeons are bred in England, and the visitors to the show on Tuesday declared that the pens contained the best birds in the world.

Persons unacquainted with the tastes and habits of our working classes may not be aware that many of the mechanics, weavers, &c., of our large towns are great pigeon-fanciers. The man who earns his 30s. a week will often pay two or three guineas for a pair of Almond Tumblers. Amateurs more blessed with wealth give from five to ten guineas, and the price is not an extraordinary one for a choice pair. Twenty guineas have sometimes been given for birds of unusual merit, and very high prices are also given for carrier pigeons which satisfy the requirements of the amateur.

The Philo-Peristeron Society have usually held from twelve to sixteen meetings in the year. At some of these, young pigeons are shown; at others, the adult birds. When members are requested to attend, they are expected to produce at least two choice birds. Each class of birds is kept separate; and at a meeting of amateurs of the higher order, it may be held as certain that the rarest productions, each of its kind, are exhibited.

After the show the members of the society sat down to a *réchéché* dinner at the Freemasons' Tavern. The chair was filled by Mr. Bowles, president of the society, with Mr. Wicking, vice-president. In the course of the evening the secretary (Mr. Esquillant) stated that upwards of 1000 persons had visited the show in the morning, who all appeared exceedingly gratified with the beauty and rarity of the birds. The society was now free from debt, and had never been in a more prosperous condition.

#### CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, January 16.—Second Sunday after Epiphany. Battle of Corunna, 1809.  
MONDAY, 17.—Dr. Franklin born, 1706.  
TUESDAY, 18.—Old Twelfth-day.  
WEDNESDAY, 19.—Copernicus born, 1473.  
THURSDAY, 20.—American Independence acknowledged, 1783.  
FRIDAY, 21.—Louis XVI. Guillotined, 1793.  
SATURDAY, 22.—Lord Byron born, 1788.

#### HIGH WATER AT LONDON-BRIDGE, FOR THE WEEK ENDING JANUARY 22.

Sunday.	Monday.	Tuesday.	Wednesday.	Thursday.	Friday.	Saturday.
M h m 6 30	M h m 7 10	M h m 7 25	M h m 8 0	M h m 8 30	M h m 9 0	M h m 9 25

#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ONE INTERESTED IN PHOTOGRAPHY, WITH LIMITED MEANS OF PROCURING APPARATUS, is informed that he may, at comparatively a trifling cost, obtain a camera obscura sufficiently perfect for copying buildings and statues with a considerable degree of excellence. The box of the camera may be made cheaply of deal; and, if blackened within and varnished without, it answers equally with any of the highly-ornamented instruments. A lens of the periscope form may be obtained for a few shillings; and if all, except about an inch, of such a lens is stopped out, by blackening, or by a diaphragm, pictures may be very quickly produced; and, although less perfect than those produced by achromatic lenses, they will possess many beauties.

H. O. S. can ascertain the price of Pugin's works on application to the nearest bookseller.

SECHS UND ZWANZIG, on going into the Savoy church, the first Sunday evening after Christmas, saw a chair at the door covered with a cloth, and a plate with an orange upon the chair. He wishes to know the origin and meaning of this custom.

S. S.—A letter with "London" after the name would be a sufficient address.

G. C. J. R.—Commoners who have had seats in the Cabinet are not "right honourable" by virtue of that appointment, but because it is the practice first to swear them as members of the Privy Council, which confers the title. The latest instances are those of Mr. Cardwell and Sir W. Molesworth, who took their places at the Board of Privy Council before being presented to the Queen to kiss hands upon their appointment.

\*\* Correspondents whose letters are not immediately answered may infer that the matters upon which they request information either require further time for inquiry, or do not fairly come within the scope of our researches.

THE WELLINGTON VOLUME of the ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS is now ready. Price One Guinea. From July 3rd to December 25th, 1852. Containing all the SPLENDID ILLUSTRATIONS of the CAREER and FUNERAL of the late DUKE of WELLINGTON, &c. COVERS FOR BINDING THE VOLUMES, 2s. 6d. each. Office, 198, Strand.

#### THE ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS.

LONDON, SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1853.

MR. DISRAELI little imagined, when he solicited the suffrages of the electors of Buckinghamshire in July last, that his address, in explanation of the policy to be pursued by the Ministry of which he was the "foremost man," would prove prophetic of the policy—not of his own Ministry, but of that which was so speedily destined to succeed it. "Do not suppose," said the right hon. gentleman, "that, when the new Parliament assembles, you will see marshalled before each other the *old parties* who have hitherto governed the empire. You will have new principles of action introduced; you will have new policies, founded upon those principles recommended to the notice of the House of Commons; and you will find that it is possible—notwithstanding all the passion of party hatred which a Ministry that understands the 'spirit of the age' may have to encounter—that it is possible, I repeat, for such a Ministry to govern a great country like this by considering the interests of the whole community, and by adopting a policy that will make it more prosperous and powerful than before." In these eloquent words we have a remarkable prediction, and a faithful portraiture; not as the speaker intended them, but as facts have since interpreted and realised them. The lines of demarcation between the old parties has been effaced; and there is every reason to hope that those new principles of action—the good of the whole community considered, irrespective of party exigencies—will produce that new and beneficial policy which "the spirit of the age" demands, and which Mr. Disraeli, with an object of his own to serve, so emphatically prefigured. It is singular, however, that Mr. Disraeli, who could so well describe what the country required, and the consummation to which all parties and party movements were tending, could not foresee the means to accomplish the end; nor that his own part in the drama was but that of a precursor and herald. Yet his admission of the speedy dissolution of the old parties of Whig and Tory, and their re-formation under new names, was in itself a proof, among many, that he linked himself to a party without really belonging to it, and that his mind was far in advance of his colleagues in the Ministry. Nor is it unlikely that he will yet give in his own person a still more striking proof of the new combinations into which the old parties shall resolve themselves, by separating entirely from the men with whom his triumphs were achieved, and with whom his reverses were suffered. There will always be two great parties in our Legislature, by whatever names we may please to call them. "Party," says Mr. Macaulay, in his yet unfinished "History of England," "has always existed, and always must exist. For it has its origin in diversities of temper, of understanding, and of interest—which are found in all societies, and which will be found, until the human mind ceases to be drawn in opposite directions by the charm of habit and the charm of novelty. Not only in politics, but in literature, in art, in science, in surgery and mechanics, in navigation and agriculture; nay, even in mathematics, we find this distinction. Everywhere there is a class of men who cling with fondness to whatever is ancient, and who, even when convinced by overpowering reasons that innovation would be beneficial, consent to it with many misgivings and forebodings. We find, also, everywhere another class of men sanguine in hope, bold in speculation, always pressing forward, quick to discern the imperfections of whatever exists, disposed to think lightly of the risks and inconveniences which attend improvements, and disposed to give every change credit for being an improvement. In the sentiments of both classes there is something to approve. But of both, the best specimens will be found not far from the common frontier. The extreme section of one class consists of bigoted dotards: the extreme section of the other consists of shallow and reckless empirics." The present Ministry, acting in accordance with the common sense which is the spirit of our age and time, is equally removed from either extremity. The triumphant return of its members by the several constituencies which they represent, the all but unanimous approval of the public, added to the unanimous verdict of such foreign nations as possess a legislature or a press—all augur for the new Ministry a protracted course of existence, and we trust of usefulness, in the sense expressed by Mr. Disraeli.

THE affairs of the East, and the relations of Turkey with the great European Powers, which have of late assumed a prominent importance, have become still further complicated by the Turkish expedition which has sailed against Montenegro. The London

Gazette of Tuesday announces a Turkish blockade of the Albanian coast, from Dulcigno to the extreme Turkish frontier; and Omar Pasha, the ablest General in the Turkish service, has commenced a campaign, in which the whole power and resources of the Ottoman empire will be employed to subjugate the fierce and hardy mountaineers, who have hitherto succeeded in preserving their independence.

The territory of Montenegro, which has thus suddenly assumed such importance, is about fifty miles in length by thirty in breadth. The country is wild and mountainous. The ridges of the hills are covered with pine forests, offering shelter to the mountaineers; while the absence of roads cannot fail to impede the progress of a regular military force provided with artillery and munitions of war. The Montenegrins do not much exceed 20,000 in number, but they are a people of unquestioned bravery, inured to arms, and possessing the love of home characteristic of the inhabitants of mountainous and picturesque countries. They are tall, muscular men, of pure Slavonic race, and striking Slavonic physiognomy. They profess the doctrines of the Greek Church, and live under the government of a Vladika, or monarch bishop, whose spiritual functions have recently been separated from his temporal authority. They are said to rely upon the interference of Austria and Russia. The Czar has recently professed great interest in this little community; and although he is not, as Lord Malmesbury erroneously supposed, the head of the whole Greek Church, yet the profession of a common religion may afford to the Cabinet of St. Petersburg a pretext for interfering to maintain the independence of Montenegro against the Turks. It is stated that Russia has already offered her mediation, which Turkey has firmly declined to accept.

The independence of Montenegro was distinctly recognised by the Earl of Malmesbury; and his speech, which arrived at Constantinople after the Turkish expedition was resolved upon, caused an uncomfortable sensation in the Turkish Ministry.

The avowed cause and origin of the war we have yet to learn, but the predatory border habits of the Montenegrins have long been the subject of remonstrance from their Mussulman neighbours. It will, probably, appear that their frequent incursions became at length intolerable, and demanded severe chastisement and retribution. As yet, however, all the successes appear to have been on the side of the mountaineers.

The brave and protracted resistance offered to the vast armies of Russia by the Circassian mountaineers, shows how a small state may defy a large one; and it is probable that the reduction of this little independent kingdom will not be effected without a considerable expenditure of blood and treasure, which Turkey is ill able to afford. Disaffection is said to exist in the adjacent Turkish provinces of Bosnia and Scutari, and the supplies of men and arms from these districts may enable the Montenegrins to prolong the contest until French or Russian intrigues at Constantinople succeed in embroiling the Porte with some one or other of its European allies. In the present state of Continental politics, any event which threatens, however remotely, to disturb the peace of Europe, or to alter the balance of power, must be regarded as a calamity. The repudiation of the Paris loan, the fall of the Ministry of Reshid Pasha, and the public proclamation at Jerusalem of the firman granted to the Greeks, rendering null and void the firman heretofore granted to the Latins—a measure which received the strenuous opposition of the French Ambassador—disclose many sources of weakness, and an unsettled condition of affairs in Turkey. There are writers who declare that the last hour of Turkey has come, and that the decayed fabric of Mussulman rule cannot be much longer shored up by the agreement of the Christian Powers. But the division of the spoil presents such insuperable difficulties, and the British Government is prepared to give such powerful and disinterested support to the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire, that we trust its independence will yet be secured.

#### THE COURT.

WINDSOR CASTLE.—The chief feature in court life during the past week has been the entertainment at the Castle of different members of the new Administration. On Friday, the 7th inst., the Royal hospitalities were extended to the Earl of Aberdeen, the Earl of Clarendon, Lord and Lady John Russ II., and a large party invited to be present at the first of a series of private dramatic representations.

The new Chancellor of the Exchequer and Mrs. Gladstone, Sir James and Lady Graham, and the Right Hon. E. Cardwell, arrived on a visit to the Queen at the early part of the present week.

On Sunday the Queen and Prince, the Prince of Wales, the Princess Royal and Princess Alice, the Duchess of Kent, the Prince of Leiningen and Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe, with the Ladies and Gentlemen of the Court and the domestic household, attended Divine service in the private chapel of the Castle. The Hon. and Rev. G. Wellesley officiated.

On Monday Mr. Thorburn attended to take the first sitting for a portrait of her Serene Highness the Princess Adelaide of Hohenlohe.

On Wednesday his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge and their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess Augustus of Coburg, the Russian Minister and Madame Bunsen, and the Master of the Rolls, arrived on a visit to her Majesty and the Prince Consort.

The second dramatic performance of the present season took place last night (Friday).

The members of the Royal family continue in the enjoyment of excellent health. Her Majesty has taken out-door exercise whenever the weather would allow, and the Prince Consort has enjoyed the sport of shooting in the Royal preserves with the guests at the Castle.

Lord Byron has relieved Viscount Hawarden as Lord in Waiting to the Queen.

The Hon. Amelia Murray and the Hon. Lucy M. Kerr have succeeded the Hon. Matilda Paget and the Hon. Mary Seymour, as Maids of Honour in Waiting to the Queen.

A CABINET COUNCIL was held on Saturday afternoon, at the Foreign-office, 1<sup>st</sup> owning-street. The Council sat three hours. A second Cabinet Council was held on Thursday, which also sat three hours.

THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON has been appointed Master of the Horse to her Majesty.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR'S LEVEE.—Lord Cranworth held his first levee as Lord Chancellor, on Tuesday morning, at his mansion, Upper Brook-street, and entertained the Master of the Rolls, the Lords Justices of Appeal, the Vice-Chancellors, the Judges of the several Courts at Westminster, the Courts of Arches, Admiralty, and Prerogative, together with the Queen's Counsel and Serjeants-at-law, to breakfast. The levee was the most numerously attended one for several years, it being unusual, according to recent practice, to hold a levee previous to Hilary Term. At the conclusion the Lord Chancellor, with the other Judges, proceeded to Westminster to open the Courts.

THE EARL OF GRANVILLE broke his collar-bone while hunting last week, near Woburn Abbey. His Lordship came to London the same evening, and is progressing satisfactorily.

LORD DENMAN is seriously ill, at Nice, from an attack of paralysis; his Lordship is now, however, considered to be almost out of danger.

## LATEST INTELLIGENCE.

FRIDAY.

CHANCERY (Thursday).—Mr. Vice-Chancellor Kindersley this day refused the injunction sought for by Mr. Murray, of Albemarle-street, to restrain Mr. Bogue, of Fleet-street, publishing a work called "Switzerland and Savoy," principally upon the ground that he could "not say the defendant had made an unfair use of Mr. Murray's work, and that no case had been made out for the interference of the Court, and no injunction could be granted unless the Court were satisfied of the unfair use of the book."

We understand that the Marquis of Breadalbane resigns his post of Lord Chamberlain, in consequence of ill health.

The directors of the London and North-Western Railway are taking measures to apply to their trains the best practical communication between the guard and driver.

SOUTHAMPTON, Thursday.—The "Merchants and Traders of Southampton" gave a grand banquet this evening, to celebrate the connection of the General Screw Steam-Shipping Company with that town.

WINDSOR.—A severe accident happened on Thursday, at Windsor station, when Miss Ricardo and her female attendant (recently arrived by train) were about to start in a phaeton, when the ponies took fright at the railway whistle, started off, and both were thrown out; Miss Ricardo escaping unhurt; but the attendant had her leg broken, and afterwards amputated. The chaise was dashed to pieces, but the ponies were uninjured.

Nathaniel Alexander, Esq., M.P. for the county of Antrim, died on the 5th inst., at the residence of Robert Langtry, Esq., Islay.

This night's *Gazette* announces the appointment of the Earl of Dalhousie as Constable of Dover, Warden and Keeper of the Cinque Ports, and the office of Admiralty within the said Cinque Ports.

## FOREIGN.

FRANCE.—The first Imperial State ball was given at the Tuilleries on Wednesday night. Lou's Napoleon was present, and the ball was of the most brilliant description. The Emperor, who was in excellent spirits, danced with the lady of the English Ambassador. An official notice has been published, which shows that the Emperor has extended clemency, within the present month, to 483 political offenders; making, since the *coup d'état*, a total of 1895. The French Rentes on Thursday exhibited a considerable decline upon Wednesday's prices. The long-continued fall of prices is exciting considerable alarm in Paris. Railway Shares, Bank Stock, and all other investments, partake of the panic. The desire to effect transactions for cash on almost any terms has been the cause of much concern to the Government. Rumours have been in circulation for some days at the Bourse, that the Minister of War had become so involved in pecuniary transactions, that the Minister of Finance, to save the credit of the Government, had advanced the money necessary to relieve his colleague from his unfortunate embarrassments. These reports having reached the Emperor, his Majesty instantly commanded the strictest inquiries to be made upon the subject, the result of which was, as stated in the *Moniteur*, "that those rumours have no foundation, and are the result of an odious calumny." The Four-and-a-Half per Cents closed on Thursday at 104f. 70c.; and the Three per Cents at 79f. 50c., being a fall of about three-quarter per cent.

SPAIN.—Several journals have been seized for violent articles against the decree on the liberty of the press. A paper is about to appear devoted entirely to the Government.

## METROPOLITAN NEWS.

RESULTS OF METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS,  
TAKEN DURING THE WEEK ENDING THURSDAY, JANUARY 13.

Month and Day.	Corrected Reading of Barometer at 9 A.M.	Thermometer. Highest Reading Lowest Reading	Mean Tempera- ture of the Day.	Departure of Tempera- ture from Average.	Degree of Humidity.	Direction of Wind.	Rain in Inches.
Jan. 7	29.261	54° 0	36° 0	46° 7	+ 11° 6	96	S.W. 0.33
" 8	29.461	51° 0	35° 1	42° 9	+ 8° 9	84	S.W. 0.01
" 9	29.658	50° 3	35° 1	42° 3	+ 7° 8	90	S.W. 0.01
" 10	29.657	50° 0	36° 8	44° 6	+ 9° 5	94	S.W. 0.15
" 11	29.500	52° 2	43° 6	45° 6	+ 10° 4	80	W.S.W. 0.05
" 12	29.603	54° 7	44° 5	49° 8	+ 14° 5	86	S.W. 0.15
" 13	29.387	48° 9	42° 1	45° 1	+ 9° 6	77	S.W. 0.00

Note.—The sign + denotes above the average, and the numbers in the seventh column are calculated on the supposition that saturation of the air is represented by 100.

The mean temperature of the week ending January 13, was 45° 3°, which is 10° above the average of the same week in thirty-eight years. The mean daily temperature was much above the average on every day of the week; the excess amounting on the 12th day to 14°. The temperature has been in excess on every day since December 1, averaging 8° too much daily.

During the past week the same unsettled weather has continued. Rain fell to the depth of 0.7 inch (seven-tenths of an inch).

JAMES GLAISHER.

HEALTH OF LONDON.—In the week ending January 8, 724 boys and 715 girls were born, and 487 males and 478 females died. Of these deaths 432 occurred under fifteen years of age, 319 from fifteen to sixty, and 209 at sixty years and upwards. In the ten corresponding weeks in the previous ten years the average number of deaths was 1145, so that the state of the public health at present is very good. Out of the 965 cases of death, 206 are assigned as those for the most part affecting children; 174 are referred to diseases of the organs of respiration: this number is less than expected, calculating from the return for the same week in the ten preceding years, by no less than 124; plainly showing the beneficial effects of the long continuance of high temperature, unaccompanied by great range, upon individuals thus affected. The low mortality attributed to the diseases of the lungs is remarkable.

THE RIGHT OF CABS AT RAILWAY STATIONS.—This much-agitated point is at last likely to be definitely settled. After a lengthened investigation on Saturday—in which Mr. Ballantine appeared for the informer, and Mr. Crombie for the railway company—it was announced that the Brighton Company would willingly join the South-Western, or any other company, and carry the dispute to the higher courts, and so have the question settled. The police magistrates' decision is consequently deferred.

THE CONSERVATIVE LAND SOCIETY.—At a ballot on the 8th inst., 100 uncompleted shareholders in Middlesex, Surrey, Hertfordshire, Kent, Essex, Suffolk, Sussex, Herefordshire, Berkshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire, and Derbyshire, were fortunate in the drawing, and will shortly have to select their allotments. Fifty shareholders have the same privilege by seniority of membership, besides 100 completed shareholders.

THE LATE EXHIBITION.—JURORS' REPORTS.—It is announced in the *Journal of the Society of Arts*, that her Majesty's Commissioners for the Great Exhibition of 1851 have liberally granted to that society 250 copies of the juror's reports for distribution among the institutions in union with it.

SOCIETY FOR THE AMENDMENT OF THE LAW.—The monthly meeting of this society was held on Monday evening, at the society's rooms, Regent-street. The adjourned debate on reform of the ecclesiastical courts, so far as the probate of wills and letters of administration are concerned, in which a fusion of law and equity jurisdiction was warmly urged, was then resumed. After a somewhat lengthened discussion, the further consideration of the subject was adjourned to next Monday—the principal points in dispute being, whether the jurisdiction relative to wills and administration should be transferred to the courts of law or equity, and whether it would be desirable to create a new court for the exclusive transaction of business or not.

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY.—Those of our readers who have visited the photographic exhibition at the house of the Society of Arts, and who take an interest in the progress of this new art, will be glad to learn that a society is formed for the purpose of more systematically utilising the energies which are at present employed in this direction. We hear that a council, composed of gentlemen well known in the photographic world, has already been organised, and that Sir C. Eastlake has consented to become the first president of the future society. Doubtless, by the union in one body, and the frequent intercourse of all upon whose co-operation depends the successful study of photography—artists, chemists, opticians, and men of mechanical invention—it may be made of as much service in advancing science and giving facilities to education as it now is in affording pleasure to the lover of nature. The society proposes to date its existence from the 20th January next, when a meeting, open to all photographer, will be held at the Society of Arts, as stated in our advertising columns. We know too well the engrossing interest of this art to doubt that the gathering of amateurs will be a large one.

CENTRAL RAILWAYS.—It is proposed to concentrate the Southern Railways at Waterloo station; carrying out the long-projected West-end branch from the Bricklayer's Arms station to that of Waterloo. Blackfriars-bridge to be rebuilt double, to serve for trains as well as the ordinary traffic. Farringdon-street and Market, and the Fleet Prison to form the grand central dépôt.

THE BRITISH MUSEUM.—On Saturday the library of the British Museum was re-opened to the public; and the different galleries were also re-opened on Tuesday.

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTION.—A special general meeting of proprietors, held on Saturday last, determined upon the new by-laws in connection with a supplemental charter just obtained, by which each £100 share has been converted into ten shares of £10 each, a holder of two shares having a free admission for himself at all times; the effect of which will no doubt be that the proprietary will be greatly extended, and the institution proportionately benefited thereby.

ROYAL INSTITUTE OF BRITISH ARCHITECTS.—The third ordinary meeting of the session 1852-3 was held on Monday, at the Institute, 16, Grosvenor-street, Grosvenor-square; Mr. D. Mocatta, V.P., in the chair. After the usual formalities, and the announcement of various donations of books and periodicals, Mr. Donaldson, V.P., read an interesting paper on Byzantine architecture in France, in which he pointed out the analogy existing between the churches of the ancient Greek Empire and those which were built in France in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.—On Monday evening a meeting of this society was held at the Royal Institution, Sir R. Murchison in the chair. Captain Allen, R.N., read a paper on the feasibility of forming a canal between the Gulf of Akaba and the Dead Sea. This sea is upwards of 1300 feet below the Mediterranean: a fact which, although known, has not, according to Captain Allen, been satisfactorily accounted for. He made certain observations along its shores, and had come to the conclusion that the Gulf of Akaba, on the north-eastern point of the Red Sea, was at some distant period connected with the Dead Sea, although the channel is now filled up. The tract of country between the Gulf of Akaba and the Dead Sea has not yet been satisfactorily surveyed, but Captain Allen concludes that the Dead Sea was also originally connected with the Mediterranean, the lake of Tiberias being one of the links of the chain, and that by evaporation the intervening district was dried, and by upheavals or otherwise barriers made, which have now divided what might have been an unbroken sea into a series of lakes. A rather voluminous paper was then read by the secretary, "Outlines of a Journey in Palestine in 1852," by the Rev. Dr. E. Robinson and others, communicated by his Grace the Duke of Northumberland; which was followed by "Latest Researches in Syria and Palestine," by the Chevalier Van de Velde, of the Dutch Navy.

EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH TIDE.—Sunday the tide rose to such a height that it completely flooded the cellars, kitchens, and basement store-rooms along the banks of the Thames, covering a portion of the road at Lambeth. The footways from Hammersmith to Kew, and from Kew to Richmond, on the Surrey side, were under water. At Kew, the gardens abutting upon the river, were so inundated, that flocks of swans swam majestically under the windows of the dwelling houses. It was one of the highest tides that has for some time occurred. Brentford, from its low situation, suffered much; but still no material damage was done by the tide. We regret to say that the high tides which followed, on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, were nearly as disastrous.

THE MODEL DWELLINGS AT ST. PANCRAS.—Nothing can be more encouraging than the success of the first building erected in Old St. Pancras-road, by the Metropolitan Association for Improving the Dwellings of the Industrious Classes. This building is erected on the principle of the Edinburgh and Parisian houses; but the departure from the established custom met, at first, with many objectors, and some difficulty was felt in obtaining tenants. Since the opening of this building the rents have been twice raised, and, notwithstanding, it is rare now to meet with a set of rooms vacant. There can be no doubt that this first erection is paying a handsome percentage; and it is almost certain that similar buildings would be a satisfactory speculation; and would also gradually pave the way to an alteration for the bettering of the dwellings of the very poor.

BILLINGSGATE IMPROVEMENTS.—The street frontage of the new Billingsgate market is nearly completed, and, when the whole is finished, will present a very handsome appearance. The change which will be presented in the aspect of the place will be such as to leave no trace of the former insufficient and ill-adapted premises for carrying on the traffic, and will redound to the credit of all parties concerned in the alteration. The shell-fish stalls, which used to make such a conspicuous figure in the old fish-market, are now removed, and will continue at the further extremity of the market towards the river.

PROPOSED RAILWAY ALONG THE THAMES.—Surveys are being made for a railway along the river from London-bridge to Westminster, so as to accommodate the metropolis in a similar way to that of Paris, by uniting with the termini of the leading railways. The proposed line is to run on a cast-iron viaduct, level with the bridges, with stations at all the main thoroughfares, the entire journey to be run by stationary power in six minutes. A public promenade fit up is also to be formed, with a telegraph between the termini. The viaduct is to be so formed as to carry off the sewerage, and to keep off the periodical overflow of the tides, so destructive to property on the Surrey side.

EXECUTION OF HORLER.—On Monday morning, Horler, the murderer of his wife, was hanged in the Old Bailey. Up to the last he cherished the delusive hope of a reprieve, affectingly besought mercy, and seemed to struggle with his fate even on the scaffold. According to his latest statement, he committed the crime for which he died on a momentary impulse.

## CHURCH, UNIVERSITIES, &amp;c.

TESTIMONIAL.—The Rev. W. Calder, by the congregation of Trinity Church, Portsea, on his leaving that place.

MUNIFICENT ENDOWMENT.—Sir Michael Shaw Stewart, Bart., has endowed the church at Greenock with £300 per annum, and £100 for a curate, on condition that daily service shall never cease to be performed.

OPENING OF A FREE CHURCH OF ENGLAND.—On Sunday, a building which has been erected at Stoke Newington was opened upon what are termed by the founders "Church of England" principles, but entirely independent of the jurisdiction of the Bishop of London.

ETON COLLEGE.—The Queen has nominated Dr. Hawtrey to the Professorship of Eton College. He was formally elected by the Fellows on Wednesday. The appointment gives universal satisfaction.

The Bishop of London has intimated his intention of holding a general confirmation at St. James's Church, Piccadilly, on Thursday, March 24th.

NEW BISHOPRIC OF NATAL.—The consent of her Majesty's Government has been obtained to the immediate creation of an English bishopric at Natal. It is stated that the first appointment to the bishopric will be given to the Rev. T. W. Weeks, M.A., incumbent of St. Thomas's Church, Waterloo-road.

PHILLIPS'S FIRE ANNIHILATORS.—In the *ILLUSTRATED LONDON NEWS* of the 20th of November last appeared the following paragraph, abridged from the *Times*:—"The *Severn*, on her homeward passage from the Brazils narrowly escaped the fate of the *Amazon*, in consequence of the spontaneous ignition of one of Phillips's patent fire annihilators." We were afterwards informed by the secretary of the Fire Annihilator Company that this statement was entirely unfounded, and were called upon to contradict it. This we did in our paper of the 1st of January, in the following terms, which we considered to be sufficiently ample and emphatic:—"A paragraph having been inserted in our paper of the 20th Nov., to the effect that the *Severn* had narrowly escaped the fate of the *Amazon*, in consequence of the spontaneous ignition of one of Phillips's fire annihilators, we have to state that a report has been published by E. Braithwaite, Esq., M.L.C.E., and Charles Watt, Esq., consulting chemist, proving, after a full investigation, 'That the accident on board the *Severn* did not arise from spontaneous combustion or spontaneous ignition; but that it arose from the act of some person. Letters from Professor Brände and Lewis Thompson, Esq., M.R.C.S., and consulting chemist, also show that they take a similar view of the case.' We have since been informed by the Fire Annihilator Company that they do not consider our contradiction sufficiently distinct. We, therefore, beg to state, once for all, in addition to the above, that the *Times* newspaper, upon which the paragraph inserted in ours of the 20th November last was founded, without having any knowledge whatever of the subject on our own parts, has since unequivocally stated that its Southampton correspondent was in error in alleging that the fire on board the *Severn* was caused by the ignition of Phillips's fire annihilators. We can have no hesitation in reiterating the contradiction of the *Times*, and in expressing our belief that the imputation conveyed as to the dangerous character of the annihilators, was utterly devoid of foundation.

ROYAL LETTER ON EDUCATION.—A letter is now in course of being forwarded by the Archbishop of Canterbury (by command of her Majesty) to the clergy of the various parishes of England and Wales, stating that the funds of the National Society for the Education of the Poor, having been expended, "the president and governors of the society therefore earnestly pray that we will be graciously pleased, by issuing our Royal letters directing collections to be made throughout England and Wales in aid of the funds of the society, to place in their hands the means by which the objects of the society can be maintained and extended, so that at length the poor in every parish throughout the kingdom may have the opportunity afforded them of obtaining for their children the inestimable blessings of a sound Christian education."

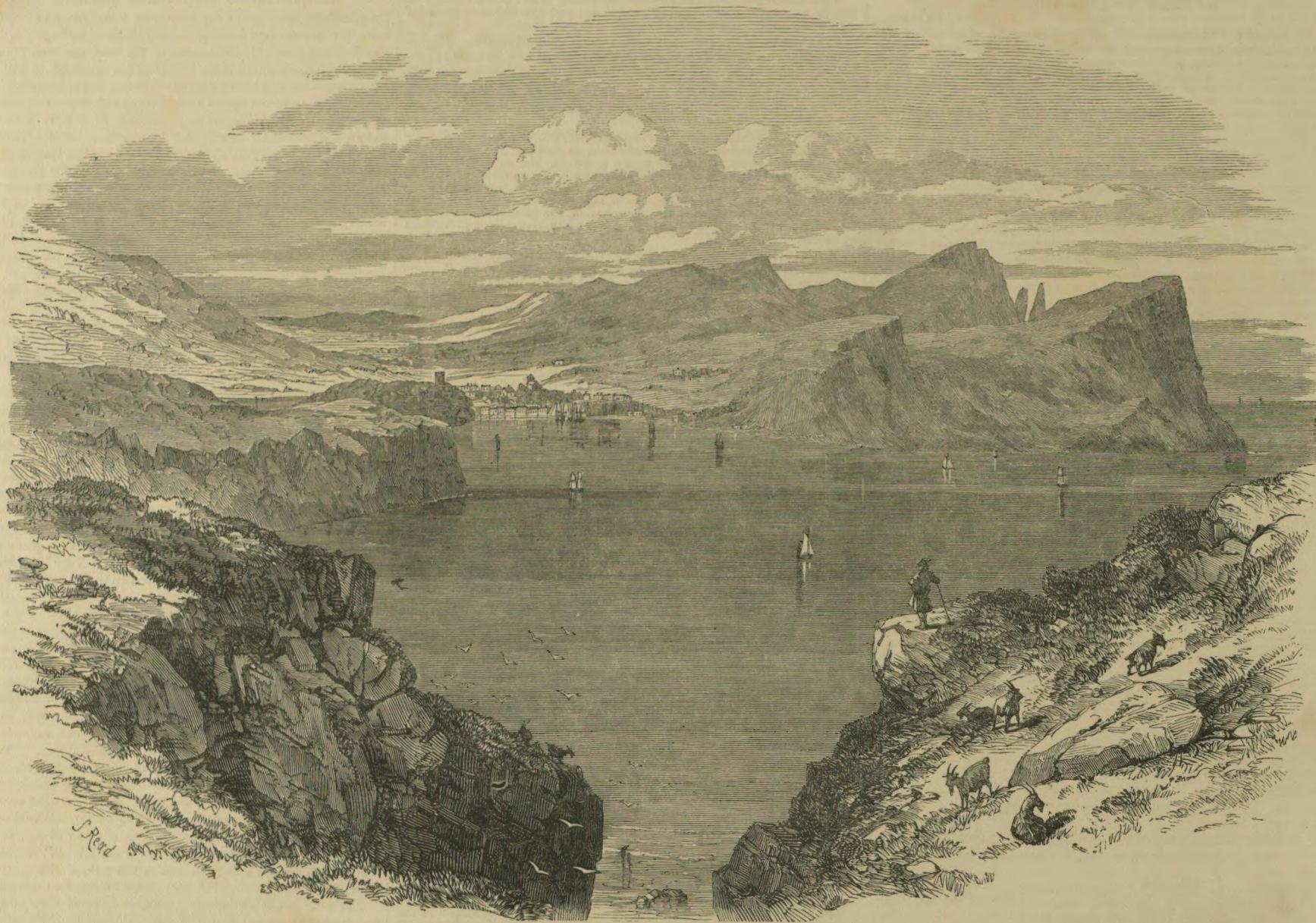
## EMIGRATION FROM THE ISLE OF SKYE.

THE desolate grandeur of the scenery in some parts of Skye annually attracts to it crowds of tourists. Every phase of our society is duly represented in the course of each season, at the Stor, Quiraug, Coruisk, and the Cuchullin or Coolen Hills. They return delighted, as well they may, with the wildest and most impressive scenery in the kingdom. Gay and joyous, they see in the hovels around them only objects of curiosity, and subjects for their pencils. It interests them to observe a man turning the ground with the "Caschrom," for they have come expressly to see what they have never seen before. The old woman leaning on her staff, with her "creel of peats" on her back, is charmingly picturesque; and forthwith figures in half-a-dozen portfolios. They venture to peep into a hut, and recoil disgusted by its squalor; but the day is bright, the scenery is superb, their own spirits are buoyant with youth or with exercise and the mountain air; and they pass on rejoicing in the success of their excursion, or the materials it has furnished for the sketch-book, or the note-book, or the next letter.

Alas! that there should be another side to so pleasant a picture—that there should be another point of view from which the objects that have afforded our lively tourists so much gratification or amusement become subjects of painful anxiety or of sorrow. That hovel, with its broken walls and tattered thatch, is the habitation of a human family, with hearts as warm, as brave, as gentle, as pious as your own. That man whom you saw toiling with a rude implement to turn up the ground which he cannot plough, has laboured in vain for the last six years to raise sufficient food for his family. That aged woman, tottering under her load of peats, has carried them perhaps a mile over the swampy moor, for the fire that is to cook a scanty meal; but, scanty though it be, He by whose bounty it is provided will be solemnly and reverently implored to bless it. Look at that heap of sea-shells at the door—limpets, periwinkles, cockles, of various forms: these will tell you what, for many a day in latter years, has been the food of that family. Yet not a neighbour has lost a sheep from the hill, or a sheep from his barn. There was a time when that family lived in humble abundance. They had sheep of their own on the common, and cows of their own in the byre, and potatoes in heaps more than they could consume. Year after year the potatoes failed; wet harvests destroyed their little patch of corn; the sheep were first sold to buy food; the cows, too, are now gone. Sons and daughters have yearly travelled long journeys to seek amongst strangers the employment which they could not find at home, and have failed to bring back enough to feed the family and pay the rent. Arrears have accumulated, hope is failing, and every night they are almost ready to relinquish the struggle for existence, which every morning they have renewed with less and less prospect of success. This is no imaginary picture; it is a living reality; too true a representation of the condition of thousands in the Western Highlands and Islands. Noble efforts were made to aid them at home, both by public subscriptions, and by the sacrifices and exertions of individual proprietors; but the evils of over-population could not thus be overcome. Every attempt to extricate them from their difficulties by eleemosynary assistance tended but to aggravate the mischief; and, after careful investigation, it became obvious that the time had arrived when a part must seek in other lands the means of subsistence which the land they inhabit cannot furnish for them all.

The poor people themselves, with an instinct that anticipated the conclusions of science, had long felt that their numbers were increasing beyond what their native localities could

## EMIGRATION FROM THE ISLE OF SKYE.



TOWN AND HARBOUR OF PORTREE.

Scotland, and of the fisheries on their coasts, may be carried out with a more freedom and better prospects of success when the surplus population has been removed.

His Royal Highness Prince Albert has been graciously pleased to express his approbation of the object and plan of the committee, and has given them full authority to announce his willing acquiescence to become Patron of the undertaking.

Subscriptions are received at the following bankers:—At the West-end—Messrs. Bouverie, Murdoch, and James, 11, Haymarket; Messrs.

Coutts and Co., Strand; Messrs. Drummond, Charing-cross. Messrs. Herries and Co., 1, St. James's-street; Messrs. Ransom and Co., 1, Pall-Mall, East. In the City—Messrs. Prescott, Grote, and Co., Threadneedle-street; Messrs. Smith, Payne, and Co., Lombard-street; Messrs. Williams, Deacon, and Co., Birch-lane; and at the office of the Committee, 4, St. Martin's-place, Trafalgar-square, where every information as to the details of the plan will be afforded.

This appeal was not disregarded. Subscriptions to a considerable amount have been received; and since the end of May, 1852, when the so-

society commenced its operations, it has sent to Australia from the distressed districts in the Highlands about 3000 persons, of whom about 2000 have gone from Skye.

H.M.S. *Hercules*, 74, ultimately destined to become a floating barrack at Hong-Kong during the sickly season, is now in the harbour of Campbeltown, at the entrance of the Firth of Clyde, receiving emigrants aided by the society, by an arrangement which they have made with the Admiralty and the Colonial Emigration Commissioners. A measure originally adopted



INTERIOR OF A COTTAGE IN THE ISLE OF SKYE.

## EMIGRATION FROM THE ISLE OF SKYE.

solely with a view to preserve the health of the British soldiers stationed at Hong-Kong, is made conducive to the relief of distress in the islands of Scotland caused by the excess of the population, and, at the same time, to the relief of distress, hardly less urgent, in Australia, caused by a deficient supply of labourers. It is pleasant to see so many benevolent objects effected, as it were, by one operation, and with an economy of means for which Government Commissioners and societies rarely get credit.

The *Hercules* has on board 840 emigrants, of all ages, making, as has been stated, with those who have preceded them, above 3000 sent by the aid of the society in the last half-year. This emigration has been effected in unbroken families, many of them consisting of three generations, and has thus furnished a nearer approach than has yet been made to a correct system of colonisation, as distinguished from individual emigration. Each ship contains a group of families, accompanied by a religious instructor and schoolmaster—a small colony which carries with it in full strength and activity the domestic affections and sympathies which, amongst this people, have peculiar force and sanctity. In the letter from Colonel Phipps, which transmitted to the society a munificent donation from the Queen, the immediate advantage to the colonies of conducting emigration on this system is clearly and

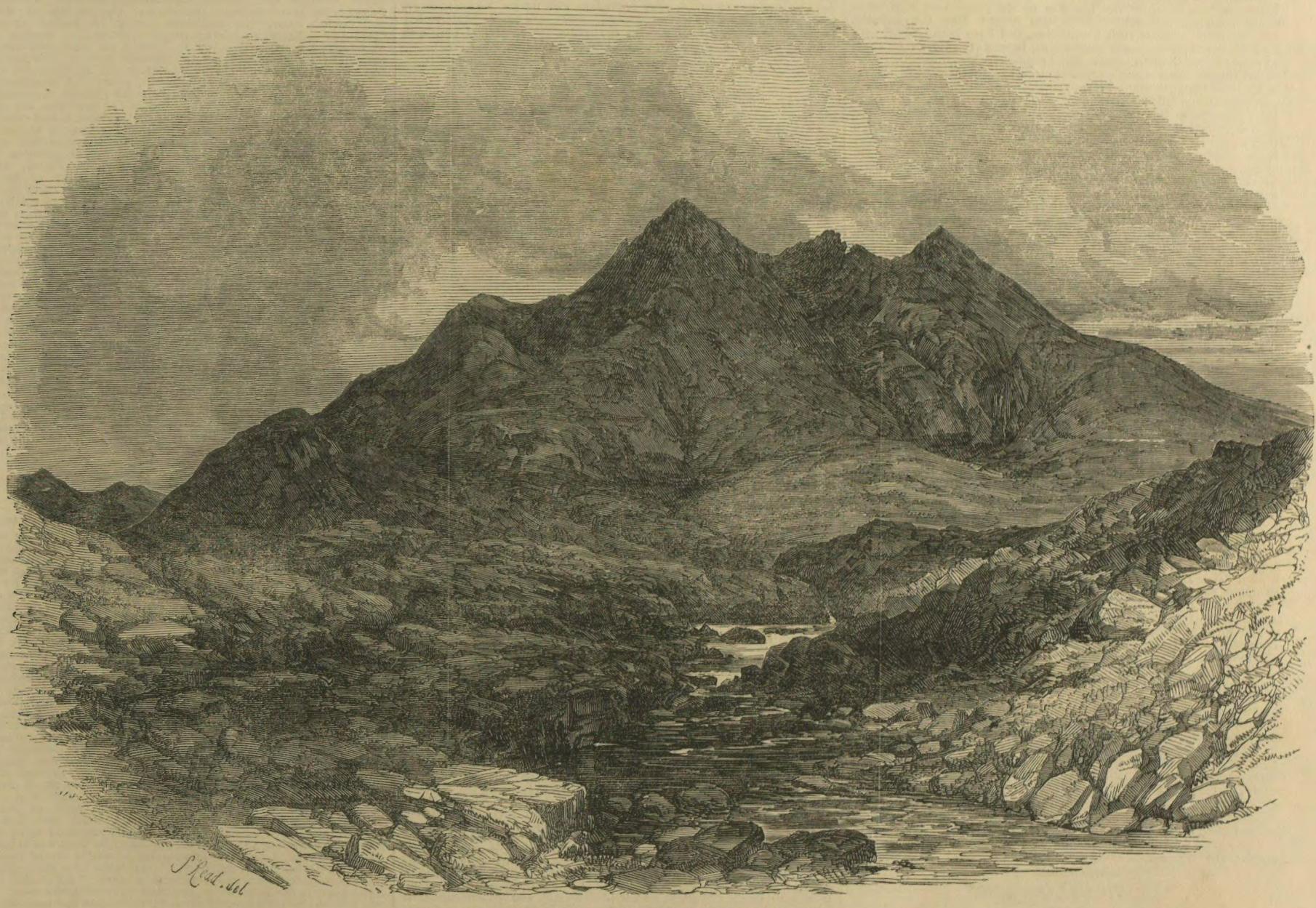


A SKYE COTTAGE.

truly stated. He says—"The only possible chance against a large portion of the emigrants deserting to the diggings lies in the system of family emigration. What are usually considered the prohibitory clogs to emigration—the old and the very young—are now most useful, as forming anchors by which family would be held to a rural home, with plenty of space and plenty of food." The prospective advantages with reference to its moral condition, of peopling a colony with families, instead of detached individuals who have no domestic ties or sympathies is too obvious to require illustration.

Another advantage attending the course pursued by this society is that it provides, in a more natural and less objectionable mode, for the great object of the Female Emigration Society. Of the unmarried adults sent out by the Highland Emigration Society, a great majority have been females, members of emigrating families, who have gone to

\* See Selections from the Printed Correspondence of the Society. London: Trelawny Saunders, 6, Charing-cross. Two feeling and eloquent sermons on this subject have lately been published by Rivington, one of which was preached by the Bishop of Argyle and the Isles and the other by the Rev. H. Mackenzie, Vicar of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields and those who are interested in the history and prospects of the Celtic race would do well to peruse them.



THE CUCHULLIN OR COOLLEN HILLS

the colony under the care of their parents and other near relations. Every one who has seen these Highland emigrants must have been struck with the air of sedate respectability that belongs to even the poorest amongst them. In abject poverty they have nothing of the reckless or disreputable aspect that so often accompanies it. This is no doubt due to the humble and simple piety that is interwoven with their whole existence. They are no sooner collected in a dépôt, or on board of ship, than they establish family worship, and conduct it with reverence and composure in the midst of persons who are engaged in other and very different occupations.

Mr. Chant, the benevolent and intelligent officer who has conducted on the part of the Commissioners, the whole of the emigration that has been aided by the society, says, in a letter to a friend:—

The St. Kildeans are a very interesting people. Their kind patron, Mr. McLeod, of St. Kilda, has behaved most generously to them. He pays the whole expense of their outfit and deposit, so that they may land at Port Phillip free of any obligation to the Highland Society, and supplies them with money for their immediate wants on landing. You would be much pleased with the simplicity of their manners, their gratitude, and, above all, their piety. They conduct family worship three times a day in the dépôt at the table assigned for their use, regardless of the noise and bustle by which they are surrounded. As you may suppose, they are much astonished with the change and the number of people they have seen in Liverpool. One of them said to me on Monday, "Well may the Day of Judgment be called the great day. If there were no more to come to judgment than I have seen in Liverpool, it might well be called the great day." Poor people! Born and brought up on a rock in the Atlantic Ocean, the whole population of which is only 110 souls, it is not to be wondered at that they are astonished at the crowded state of Liverpool, with its fleets and its large docks, warehouses, &c.

They all partake, more or less, of the same character. The emigrants on board the *Hercules* are from the islands of Skye, North Uist, and Harris. They were brought from those islands in the *Celt* steamboat, hired by the society for their accommodation, the season being too far advanced—too cold and boisterous—to admit of their being exposed without hazard to their health on the decks of the steamboats that ply to those distant islands. On her voyage from North Uist and Harris, the *Celt* had a stormy passage, that would have been perilous in a less efficient vessel. Some of the women were on board



SKYE PEASANT WITH THE CASCHROM.



SKYE WOMAN WITH PEAT CREEL.

for five days and nights, with their infants in their arms. Nearly all the females and children suffered greatly from sea-sickness; and when, on the afternoon of Sunday, the 12th ult., they passed from the *Celt* to the deck of the *Hercules* (riding quietly in the beautiful harbour of Campbeltown), many of them were still much exhausted; but the men, accustomed to boating, seemed to have suffered little. It was curious to observe them, as they stepped over the gangway of the great ship. The young women came first—some looking cheerfully round, some sad, and some in tears; but all took pains to adjust their shawls and handkerchiefs, their tresses, or their caps, as they made their appearance before strangers. The married women and their children followed, the latter skipping and dancing on the broad deck, overjoyed at their escape from the confinement of the steamboat; the former, so completely absorbed by the care of their children, and the fear of losing them in the crowd, that they did not seem to be conscious of where they were, or what had brought them there. The men looked dark and stern, like men about to confront danger, and not likely to shrink from the encounter, but relaxed into a smile at the first kind word. Next day they were all cheerful and happy, spoke with gratitude of the pains that had been taken to provide for their comfort; and expressed astonishment at the extent and completeness of the arrangements, which greatly exceeded any thing they had imagined to be possible. On the third day they all looked quite at home, some engaged in reading, some in writing to the friends they had left. The young women were working with their needles, or knitting, the children playing together, and all loud in their praises of the kindness they received from Captain Baynton, and every officer in the ship. On Wednesday and Thursday they were visited by the Rev. Roderick McLeod, of Snizort, and Dr. Mackintosh Mackay, of Dunoon—two ministers of the Free Church, who were known to them all. The latter preached to them on Thursday; and, as they sat on the upper deck, singing a psalm, one of their own number leading, their whole bearing and aspect was such as must have given infinite satisfaction, could they have seen it, to those through whose bounty these poor and pious creatures are enabled to escape from wretchedness to comfort, from mendicity to independence. It would have been difficult to collect a more respectable-looking body of their class. Yet many of these families had been reduced to such straits before leaving home, that for some weeks it had been found necessary to supply them with food, for otherwise they must have starved before the steamboat arrived to take them away. It is no doubt an acceptable recompence to those who have taken a part in promoting the success of the Highland and Island Emigration Society, to know that by their aid 3000 human beings, who, for the last five or six years have been hopelessly struggling with misery, have been rescued from the suffering and the moral evils of such a condition, and have been placed, with their descendants for some generations, beyond the reach of want, as surely as any thing in human affairs can be considered sure.

But though there is much satisfaction in having contributed to effect so happy a change in the lot of so many of our fellow-creatures, fellow-countrymen, and fellow-Christians, it would be unfortunate if those who have engaged in this undertaking should rest satisfied with what has been done instead of deriving, from the success that has so far attended their exertions, the confidence and encouragement it is calculated to give them. The population of Skye has, it is true, been reduced, by the aid of the society, from 22,500 to 20,500, but there are still thousands there who desire to follow their friends to Australia, because they find themselves unable to obtain employment and subsistence at home. In the outer Hebrides there are thousands more in similar circumstances. On the west coast of the mainland the number is nearly as great. The Society has, in truth, but entered upon the ground it proposed to occupy; still it is something to have made a commencement, and to have performed perhaps about one-tenth of the work it has to do in the Highlands. The only difficulty it has to encounter is the want of sufficient funds to maintain a continuous stream of emigration, such as the urgency of the distress in the Highlands and Australia demands.

The perils of that colony are such as to cause the greatest anxiety. It is evident that agricultural and pastoral industry must there cease to be remunerative, unless it can be supplied with labour at a price much lower than the probable gains of a successful gold-digger. This difficulty will be most effectually met by sending to the colony in large numbers persons who, by their character or circumstances, or both, are the least likely to relinquish the certain wages of ordinary service for the more precarious gains of the diggings; and the want of enterprise which has prevented the Highlanders—unless to a very limited extent—from engaging in the competition that was open to them in the great marts of industry at home, will probably make them shrink from the more formidable and ruder competition of the diggings. What was considered a reproach to them here is their chief excellence there.

It is to be hoped that a society constituted and conducted as this has been will not be permitted to decline for want of means to carry on its operations. At least a year must elapse before any part of the money it has advanced can be recovered and become available. In the meantime, much wretchedness remains, which, with ampler means, might at once be permanently relieved. Any one who can spare three pounds may have the gratification of placing one suffering fellow-Christian beyond the risk of want for the future. Doubtless, there must be many thousands of persons in the kingdom who would gladly contribute such a sum for the accomplishment of that object; and, through the agency of this society, they have every facility for effecting it.

The *Hercules* sailed from Campbeltown on the 26th ult., and, after contending in vain for five days with adverse and boisterous weather, she anchored off Rothsay, in the Isle of Bute, where she is waiting a favourable wind. So far from there having been any loss of life, the emigrants received an addition to their number while they were at sea. A small pamphlet has just been published by Rivington, containing an interesting series of correspondence relating to this gallant ship and her living freight, from the time of her arrival at Campbeltown till her temporary return to Rothsay.

A few days before the sailing of the vessel, the provost and magistrates of Campbeltown entertained at dinner in the Town-hall, Captain Baynton and the officers of H. M. S. *Hercules*—the provost occupied the chair; and the guests included some of the most influential gentlemen of the district. The toast of "Captain Baynton and the officers of H. M. S. *Hercules*," was drunk with great cordiality; and was followed by various toasts having reference to the benevolent object of the meeting.

The accompanying illustrations are from sketches by Mr. Samuel Read, taken expressly for this Journal.

#### NATIONAL SPORTS.

Should the weather continue "open," of which there is little doubt, the steeplechase campaign for 1853 will commence on Wednesday next, at Epsom; we have no other fixtures for January but Newton and Oundle, on the 26th and 28th. The coursing appointments for the week ensuing are Hewell and Gateshead on Wednesday, Nithsdale on Thursday, and Altear on Friday.

#### TATTERSALL'S.

MONDAY.—The room was tolerably well attended, and business, without any decided alteration, took a wider range than usual. The quotations closed as follows:—

METROPOLITAN HANDICAP.		LIVERPOOL STEEPLECHASE.	
22 to 1 agst Richmond	100 to 1 agst Galvanism (t)	30 to 1 agst Hirata	
25 to 1 — Redmond O'Hanlon	25 to 1 — Grapeshot	30 to 1 — Peatery	
14 to 1 agst Miss Mowbray		500 to 15 — Pug Ororock (t)	
40 to 1 agst Scarocrow	15 to 1 agst Sir Peter Laurie	15 to 1 agst Oscar	
40 to 1 — Muscovite	66 to 1 agst Agnes Wickfield	66 to 1 agst Cardinal Wiseman	
50 to 1 — Constantine (t)	66 to 1 — Augur (t)	66 to 1 — Testid (t)	
50 to 1 — Lady Evelyn (t)	17 to 1 agst Orestes	66 to 1 — Friday	
13 to 1 agst West Australian (t)		20 to 1 — Umbriel (t)	
16 to 1 — Cinias (t)	20 to 1 — Sittingbourne	50 to 1 — Lord Faulconberg	
	25 to 1 — Harworth (t)	(t)	
DERBY.		40 to 1 agst Rataplan	
12 to 1 agst Miss Mowbray	17 to 1 agst Orestes	50 to 1 — Lord Faulconberg	
25 to 1 — Grapeshot	18 to 1 — Umbriel (t)	(t)	
25 to 1 — Wedlock filly	20 to 1 — Sittingbourne	66 to 1 — Augur (t)	
40 to 1 agst Scarocrow	25 to 1 — Harworth (t)	66 to 1 — Peatery	
40 to 1 — Muscovite	50 to 1 — Nelly	66 to 1 — Peggy	
40 to 1 — Constantine	50 to 1 — Mountain Deer	66 to 1 — Augur (t)	
50 to 1 — Lady Evelyn	66 to 1 — Agnes Wickfield	100 to 1 — Peatery	
13 to 1 agst West Australian (t)		66 to 1 — Cardinal Wiseman	
TUESDAY.—The subjoined return of the closing quotations, made from moderate investments, shows no change of importance:—		100 to 1 agst Towtis	
LIVERPOOL STEEPLECHASE.		100 to 6 agst Sir Peter Laurie	
25 to 1 — Grapeshot	30 to 1 agst Lampedo	33 to 1 agst Pug Ororock (t)	
25 to 1 — Wedlock filly	33 to 1 — Defence	33 to 1 — Peatery	
40 to 1 agst Scarocrow	40 to 1 agst Marie		
40 to 1 — Muscovite	50 to 1 — Nelly	66 to 1 — Peggy	
40 to 1 — Constantine	50 to 1 — Mountain Deer	66 to 1 — Augur (t)	
50 to 1 — Lady Evelyn	66 to 1 — Agnes Wickfield	100 to 1 — Peatery	
TWO-THOUSAND GUINEAS.		66 to 1 — Cardinal Wiseman	
50 to 1 agst West Australian (t)	100 to 1 agst Towtis		
TURKEY.		100 to 1 agst Filbert	
16 to 1 — Cinias (t)	100 to 1 agst Sittingbourne	100 to 1 — Pharoald	
17 to 1 — Umbriel (t)	100 to 1 — Rataplan (t)		

Sir Edward Lytton Bulwer, Bart., M.P., returned seven-and-a-half per cent to his tenants at the audit, Knebworth Park, Herts.

#### THE PRESS AND THE THEATRES.

CONSIDERABLE discussion has lately arisen on the subject of the so-called "privilege" accorded to the press by the metropolitan theatres—a privilege (if such it be) entitling each daily and weekly journal to issue nightly an order for the admission of two persons to each theatre. This custom had its origin with the theatres, and not with the press; and was intended to facilitate the admission of free and independent critics, to report upon new performers and new performances. Lately, however, the system has been abused by many journals. Upon this point we do not at present intend to enter; it is sufficient to state that exceptions were lately taken to it—firstly, by Mr. Albert Smith, with good taste and good feeling; and, secondly, by Mr. Charles Mathews, in a manner that was insulting to the press, and erroneous both in point of fact and in point of principle. In common with our contemporaries, we received a circular last week from the Lyceum Theatre, entreating us to suspend our usual orders during the run of the Christmas entertainments; and alleging, as an excuse for the request, that the press orders were so numerous as to monopolise the space of the theatre, and prevent the accommodation of persons who had paid for their places. Our course was immediately taken. Caring nothing for the "privilege" of free admission, and thinking it, in its indiscriminate use, by no means creditable to the press or to the theatres, we sent a circular—not only to Mr. Charles Mathews, but to every theatre and exhibition in London—declaring our intention to issue no more orders. We are happy to learn that the same course was adopted by other independent journals; and that the principal newspapers, without concert or combination one with another, took the very same determinations, and renounced the privilege, which one theatrical manager had directly proved to be injurious to his pecuniary interests, and, indirectly, to be equally injurious to others. For our own part, we stand clear of the theatres and their favours. We desire nothing of them; and would scorn to accept even one solitary free admission for one night from any manager, great or small, who should imagine that his courtesy was a bribe to secure a favourable notice. We stand upon the independence and dignity of criticism. From all the plague and nuisance of the free-order system, we, in common with our most distinguished contemporaries, have relieved ourselves, much to our own satisfaction. When the pertulance of some injudicious managers shall cease to complicate the question, we have no doubt that critics and managers will devise, between them, some plan by which the conductors of theatres may be moderately civil to the critics, without calling upon the critics for unmerited praise, or thinking themselves aggrieved by well-merited censure.

#### THE THEATRES.

##### DRURY-LANE.

The lessee of this establishment is doing his best, according to his lights and opportunities, to solve the problem of the manner in which the national theatre is to be worked in order to its being made to *pay*. He has lost no time in producing a second new piece, more satisfactory than the first, to lead off the business of the evening; and has this time resorted to a better-class author (Mr. C. Reade, one of the partners in the play of "Masks and Faces," and the novel of "Peg Wolfington,") and attempted a drama in the legitimate form of five acts. But the subject is *ad captandum*, and deals not with the past or the distant, but with the domestic and the immediate; the scene varying but from Berkshire to Australia, and the prevailing themes being the causes of emigration and the discovery of gold. The "manners" of the drama, therefore (to speak technically), are not realised ideas nor idealised realities; but, so far as the playwright has skill to make them, literal realities, or speaking portraits of living individuals, and moving pictures of the present state of society in England and its dependencies. Themes of this kind have generally been confined to the three-act drama; but there is no good reason why they should not occupy five or more acts, if required by the story and the interest. The first act of Mr. Reade's new drama, though somewhat over-written, promised a good play. There was variety of character, antagonism of purpose, energy of expression, a few striking situations, and some skilfully-contrived groups, which told well, and occasionally secured a strong sympathy. *George Sandford*, the farmer, whose industry misses in England of its proper recompence, and who is thus in a susceptible condition for yielding to emigrating influences, was very naturally and efficiently represented by Mr. Davenport, who, since his last appearance at the Haymarket, has been sedulously working at improvement in the provinces, and returns to London a highly-finished performer. *William Sandford*, his brother (Mr. Moorehouse) was also efficiently impersonated. Three other characters likewise, most carefully delineated by the author, found adequate representatives: *Isaac Levi*, a Jew (Mr. Edward Stirling); *Mr. Mea'ows*, a corn-factor (Mr. H. Lee); and *Mr. Robinson*, a thief (Mr. Henry Wallack). To these, perhaps, we ought to add, *Crawley*, an attorney's clerk, by Mr. Selby. The performance of all these parts was satisfactory, and that of *Levi* not without a dash of grandeur, befitting the associations of the Hebrew race. To him is opposed the corn-factor (quite as usurious), who schemes the removal of his competitor from the village, earns his curse and his hostility, and at last succumbs to his superior vigilance and skill. "An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth," is *Levi's* declared principle; and the creed is fearfully embodied in his practice. *Levi*, indeed, checkmates at every turn the respectable *Meadows*, much in the same way that the shrewd West Indian in "Sarah Blangi" counterplots the poisoner in all her contrivances. The point, however, is not so elaborately contested, and *Levi* achieves comparatively an easy victory. We have said that a part of the scene is in Australia. The third and fourth acts are devoted to the discovery of the gold, and the working of it. The thief, turned reformed, is the chief agent; but is, in the end, outrun by the young farmer, who discovers a "nugget" worth several thousand pounds. Of these the earlier act was the most interesting in its incidents, and most skilfully contrived in its situations; but it was on the latter that the hopes of the stage-manager were built. In this were represented, in an elaborate scene, the diggings and gold-seekers' encampment, on the banks of the river McQuarrie. The scenic arrangements were perfect, but the dramatic were defective. The playwright should have started in *medias res*, and then worked his subject backwards and forwards, by way of episode and continuation, so as to have grouped his accessories about a central situation. But, instead of this, Mr. Reade treated the whole affair as a lecture; introducing to us both the thief and the Jew speculating, and describing *in extenso* on the best way to find gold, and the best means to test it; and then following this up with an item or two of fraudulent practices, lynch-law, and attempted assassination; all according to a simple law of narrational succession, not of dramatic concentration. Here, accordingly, the action seemed to stand still, and the audience grew impatient. A similar defect was perceptible in the fifth act, on *George Sandford's* and *Robinson's* return home; the former to claim his bride, at the moment she is about being forced into marriage with the odious *Meadows*, who has contrived at an inn to rob the returning emigrants of their wealth. But the railway and the electric telegraph reveal the culprit by arresting *Meadows's* agent, the despicable *Crawley*, with the notes upon him. This allusion to a great fact of modern civilisation was exceedingly felicitous, and of course secured the approbation of the house. The *Jew* at last enters with full evidence of *Meadows's* guilt, and thus aids in the fulfilment of his own malediction, as pronounced in the initial act of the drama. Throughout, this play is well written, and the characters are skilfully contrasted; but, as we have intimated, the former is occasionally wanting in the disposition of the stage business. But it is a highly meritorious effort, and deserves to be encouraged. The house was numerously attended, and the applause properly predominated over the manifestation of dissent. We think the piece is likely to prove sufficiently attractive.

##### STRAND.

Mr. James Anderson, late lessee of Drury-lane, has migrated to this little theatre from the City of London. He has made his appearance in *Claude Melnotte*. The comedy was followed by a small piece, entitled "The Sentinel," from the pen of Mr. Bourcicault. On Monday, it is announced that the drama of "Civilisation" will be reproduced.

##### MUSIC.

###### NOTES OF THE WEEK.

The week's musical doings are within a narrow compass. The return of John Parry to the Music-hall, Store-street, last Monday, must not, however, pass unrecorded.—When it is announced that at Salaman's Amateur Choral Meeting, Rossini's magnificent opera, "William Tell," was executed, it must be admitted that amateur progress is not on the decline in the country; at these meetings the most difficult operas are gone through without excision.—Next Friday (the 21st), the Sacred Harmonic Society will perform Mendelssohn's "Elijah," under Costa's direction: much interest will be excited by this revival, as the accomplished Madame Fiorentini will sing the principal soprano part for the first time in London; and Miss Huddart, the contralto, will sing the music of the Queen. Miss Deakin, Miss Dolby, Mr. Lockey, Mr. J. A. Novello, and Mr. Weiss, are allotted the other parts. For the future the rehearsals will be in the large hall every Friday evening; and by this change of night, Costa's presence will be secured during the season.

The society has just published a carefully-prepared catalogue of its well-stored library, which is especially rich in Handelian collections, both in print and manuscript. The cultivated amateur will be much interested in the perusal of this catalogue, especially in the division having reference to musical literature. Some of the theoretical works are ancient, scarce, and valuable. Mozart's "Requiem," which has been some time in preparation, under Costa's supervision, will be anxiously looked for, as the earliest novelty.—The anniversary festival of the Ancient Madrigal Society will be celebrated on the 20th instant, in Freemasons' hall; General Lord Saltoun in the chair.—A lecture on church music, and its due place in public devotion, was delivered before the Islington branch of "The Church of England Young Men's Society," on the 7th instant, by Mr. J. T. Cooper, organist of St. Paul's Church, Islington. The illustrations, which included compositions by the first writers, such as "Jubilate in B flat," Purcell; "Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way," Boyce; "Awake, put on thy strength, Wise;" "If we believe that Jesus died," Goss; "I will sing of thy power," Greene, &c., were sung by choristers of the Temple church, gentlemen of Westminster Abbey, and others, making a choir of about thirty voices. The specimens above mentioned were introduced by the lecturer as only appropriate for use in cathedral and collegiate churches. For parochial church service specimens were given of a plain single chant to the "Veni, exultemus;" the Ambrosian chant, harmonised for the choir, and adapt d to the Prayer Book translation of the "Te Deum," by the lecturer; and a series of plain Psalm tunes—the Old Hundredth, Old Hundred-and-Fourth, a chorale by J. S. Bach, "Sanctus" by Tallis, &c. The Rev. Daniel Wilson, A.M., Vicar of Islington, presided over the meeting, which was very numerous. All present appeared to be highly interested with the illustrations, and with the remarks of the lecturer, who, at the close of the lecture, suggested a plan for promoting congregational singing in our parish churches.—The Hungarian contralto, Mlle. Marie Doria, whose voice rumour proclaims as resembling that of Alboni, will make her first appearance in London at Alcroft's monster concert, at Exeter-hall, on the 24th inst.—Alboni, by the way, it is mentioned in a letter from New York, was to have appeared at the Broadway Theatre, in "Cenerentola," on the 27th ult.; and Madame Sontag was to make her début in Italian opera about a fortnight after that date.—The mention of the names of Sontag and Alboni brings us to the gossip touching the two Royal Italian Operahouses, or rather the one, as, in all probability, according to present appearances, Covent-garden only will open, some time in March. Mr. Gye is on the Continent, looking out for a tenor, as Mario and Tamburik, Signor Medori, the new prima donna, and Ronconi—cannot return from the Russian capital until April. With this distinguished batch are the auxiliaries Tagliafico, Polonini, and Mlle. Cott. Madame Castellan, who is the rage at Lisbon, will be here to open the campaign, as also Madame Jullienne, who, at Barcelona, has been creating a perfect furore amongst the Iberian cognoscenti.—Private correspondence from Lisbon gives flattering accounts of the progress of Mr. Swift, the English tenor, who has been singing in Italian opera with Castellan.—There are flying rumours current of another attempt to establish a national opera in London, on some solid basis: may this news be confirmed!—An agreeable piece of news has come to hand from Hanover, namely the appointment of Joachim, the violinist, as Chapel-master, in place of the late

## EPITOME OF NEWS.—FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC.

A course of lectures upon Free-trade, Education, Law, and Parliamentary Reform, will be delivered in town during the present month, by Samuel Gordon, Esq., of Dublin.

W. J. Redpath, Esq., Comptroller of Customs at Stockton, has been promoted to Collector at Rochester; and Robert Cullum, Esq., Comptroller at Dover, is appointed Comptroller at Stockton.

Lieut.-Colonel Sir T. Mitchell, Surveyor-General of New South Wales, has just arrived from that colony, and brought with him a diamond of good form and of the finest water, weighing three-quarters of a carat, found at the gold-diggings at Ophir, West of Bathurst. Sir Thomas has presented this specimen to the Museum of Practical Geology, Jermyn-street.

From Norfolk, U.S., we have a brief account of the wreck and total loss of the British steamer *Mountaineer*, bound from Liverpool for this port. She struck, on Christmas-day, a few miles south of Currituck inlet. Fortunately, no lives were lost.

During the past year 142 vessels, of an average tonnage of 3957, and of an aggregate of 56,645 tons, have been launched from the building-yards on the Wear, showing an increase on the preceding year of 4822 tons, and a decrease of four vessels; and for the years 1851-52, an increase of tonnage of 12,312 tons, or upwards of 25 per cent.

The negotiations between Austria and Russia relative to the junction of their telegraphic lines are nearly terminated. The Russian telegraphic line is to be taken from St. Petersburg. The junction is to be effected on the frontiers of Galicia by a special line, which is not to be connected with the German telegraphs.

A circular has been issued from the Horse Guards, extending to officers in the army the privileges hitherto enjoyed by non-commissioned officers and privates with respect to the use of barrack libraries.

An unprecedented quantity of moisture has fallen this season all over this country and other parts of Europe. In America it has been little better; in Africa and India, also, an unusual amount of rain has prevailed. Much damage must have been done to the winter cereal crops generally.

The Rev. Philip Smith, Professor of Mathematics at New College, London, has been appointed head master of the Protestant Dissenters' School, Mill Hill, vacated by the resignation of Mr. Priestley.

A court-martial has been held at Portsmouth on a Royal Marine named Patrick Brady, for threatening to blow out the brains of Sergeant Sandars; when he was found guilty, and sentenced to receive forty-eight lashes and eighteen months' imprisonment.

A discovery of 301 old coins has been made on a farm of Tenter-hill, Whittingham; they comprise crowns, half-crowns, shillings, and sixpences, of the reigns of Philip and Mary, Elizabeth, James I., and Charles I., of England, and some Spanish coins of Philip IV. The intrinsic value is about £20.

During the past week Charleroi, Namur, Manage, Monseron, and Lamines (Belgium); Pistoja, Pescia, Prato, Poggesoni, Impoli, and Pontadera (Tuscany), have been placed in communication with the Submarine Telegraph-office, Cornhill.

A fine golden eagle, taken in Strathglass, is at present in Inverness, intended as a present to the Emperor of France.

Shocks of an earthquake were felt at Acapulco, on the 4th and 9th of December. Property to the value of 200,000 dols. was destroyed.

Alfred Waddington, who was condemned at the late winter jail delivery, for murder at Sheffield, was hung on Saturday, at twelve o'clock, at York Castle. From 8000 to 10,000 spectators were present, and conducted themselves very orderly.

The American steamer *Western World* has been lost on the Mississippi, near New Orleans; twelve or fifteen lives were lost. Among the passengers were two British travellers—Captain the Hon. Henry A. Murray, R.N., and Mr. Midmay. They both escaped uninjured, but lost all their papers and baggage.

James Kaley, the Scotch giant, who exhibited in a *café* on the Boulevards, died lately at Paris, almost suddenly, aged twenty-seven years; his height was nearly eight feet. Though apparently of a great power, he was of a very weakly constitution. He was never married, and died almost in poverty.

Messrs. Gibbs, Bright, and Co., the owners of the *Eagle*, are about to present Capt. Boyce with a handsome silver salver, for bringing the vessel from Melbourne to London in the short space of seventy-six days—the quickest known.

The newest notion in Boston, America, is a lady, who, calling herself the "Veiled Vocalist," sings at the Melodeon, and gives the proceeds of her concerts to the paupers.

The new Belgian press law came into operation on the 1st inst., when the booksellers of Brussels removed from their windows all such books and pictures as might subject them to penalties under the new system of restriction.

The *Journal pour Rire*, of Paris, has of late ventured to give some sketches of passing events, and for this offence it has been fined 47,000 francs, or nearly £2000 sterling!

Suicides have been very frequent lately in Paris. Dr. Fiard has blown out his brains, at his residence in the Rue Hauteville; a dressmaker, in the Rue St. Jacques, suffocated herself with charcoal; and two other persons drowned themselves in the canal.

At a meeting of the Aberdeen Town Council on Monday, it was resolved to petition for the abolition of University tests, in all chairs, except the Theological.

Inspector Field has had the satisfaction to receive from Sir Richard Mayne, C.B., a first-class certificate of good conduct, and from the late Government a pension of £126 per annum.

The inquest on the late dreadful accidents at Oxford have been continued for three days, and then adjourned to Monday next.

The late Mr. T. Phillips, of Brunswick-square, has left £6000 for founding a professorship of physical sciences in St. David's College. A few years ago, the same benevolent gentleman gave £1800 to that college, to found six scholarships for natives of Wales and Monmouthshire.

The report of the death of Sir Charles Lemon is premature. Sir Charles has had a severe attack of paralysis, but the accounts last received are more favourable, and give some hopes of his recovery.

The monster steamer *Parana*, which left Southampton the 2nd of December last, arrived at St. Thomas' on the 19th. She took out 1276 tons of coal, and had 80 tons left when she arrived at her destination. Her average daily consumption was 70 tons. Her greatest daily speed was 288 miles.

Baslow Church, Derbyshire, which was re-opened last week, has been ably restored, in the Early English style of architecture, from designs by Sir Joseph Paxton; the contractors being Mr. Watts, of Ashover; Mr. Savage, of Chesterfield; and Mr. Green, of Baslow.

The Duke of Wellington has consented to be named a Vice-President of the Royal Highland School Society, vacant by the death of his illustrious father.

The *Adelaide* (Australia) Mining Company has declared a dividend of £100 per cent.

The annual ball for the benefit of the Cheesemongers' Benevolent Institution took place on Tuesday last, at the London Tavern, and was numerously attended.

A singular accident befel the Peninsular and Oriental Company's ship *Coquet*, on her being launched, in the Thames, last Monday: after gliding some sixty or seventy feet down the slip, she stopped, her stern sunk into the ground, and her bow was raised in proportion, off the slip. All efforts to move her into the creek have hitherto proved ineffectual.

On Wednesday, a new order was issued by the Police Commissioners, for all officers, either on duty at police-offices, acting as clerks at the different stations, or attending theatres or private parties of the nobility and gentry, to wear a distinguishing armlet. In the event of non-compliance, a fine will be inflicted in the first instance, and afterwards suspension.

The Queen of Hanover is sufficiently recovered to drive out, but is still so poorly, that all Court ceremonies on New Year's-day were postponed.

The London and Westminster Bank have advanced the rate of interest allowed on the deposit receipts from 1 to 1½ per cent. from the 1st inst.

The barque *Eglinton* has been lost thirty miles north of Perth, Swan River; the crew all saved except one lady (a Mrs. Patram) and the boatswain.

On Wednesday last, the village of Weston Underwood, in the county of Bucks, so well known to lovers of English poetry in association with their poet Cowper, was the scene of great rejoicing, to celebrate the coming of age of Courtney R. Throckmorton, Esq., the heir to the extensive estates of Sir Robert Throckmorton; when the whole of the inhabitants, young and old, were regaled with abundance of good cheer.

An impostor (pretending to be deaf and dumb), of the name of Gray, has managed to levy contributions and obtain money under false pretences at Newcastle, by means of an order and receipt book of the Deaf and Dumb Asylum there. After his apprehension he was so cautious that his imposture was only discovered in the following manner: As he is only about five feet tall, he is a bit high, a bit tall, about seven feet in depth was prepared for him. It was made sufficiently warm without scalding him, as he was led to believe. Little thinking it was so deep, he plunged in some water, and, rising to the surface, roared for assistance in a fine, clear voice, with the true Irish brogue, very much to the amusement of the spectators. When tried, he was found guilty—seven years' imprisonment.

## CHESS.

## TO CORRESPONDENTS.

ABACUS.—Try your hand at the Problem in our present Number *without moving the pieces about*, and we will reward you for finding the solution in the time you specify. Remember, too, this is in four moves only.

W. F. B. should see at a glance the fallacy of his attempted solution. Black would hardly be such a noodle as to interpose his Rook when you first check with the Queen.

D. W. H., of Barnsbury.—It shall be examined.

C. S., of Brightling.—These last received shall be noticed in our next.

Heavers, York.—You will get the rules and board for "Double Chess" of Sherwin, the chess-men turner, in Queen-street, Lincoln's-inn.

ODENA.—Persons in the country wanting any particular periodical, have simply to order it of the bookseller in their own town, and they ought, "now-a-days," to receive it a day or two after publication.

D. W. H., Barnsbury.—In Herr Krome's Enigma 788, the Black Pawns should stand on Q R 5th and C 6th.

T. K., Oxford-street.—Our old Correspondent, Mr. Kling, is thanked for his obliging contributions, which seem to maintain his well-deserved reputation as one of the first problemists.

C. S. L.—You did quite right to return the periodical in question. The *Chess-player's Chronicle*, you would have seen, referring to our advertisement page, is now published by Messrs. K. & J. COOPER, of PATERNOSTER-ROW.

C. J. O., Worcester.—Make yourself thoroughly familiar with the openings given in the "Chess-player's Handbook," and get as much practice as you can, with experienced players.

BRITISH CHESS-CLUBS.—We beg to acknowledge the receipt of the rules, &c., of the Shrewsbury Chess-club.

J. R., T.,—You are quite right, as "amended." It may be solved in three moves.

E. H., of Norwich.—It shall receive attention.

J. P.—The King can Castle after having been checked.

T. L., Baker-street.—1. Not at present. 2. With the best play on both sides it would probably be drawn.

J. P., Bethnal-green.—Chess Problems, to be deserving publicity, demand far more time and labour in the composition than young players have any notion of bestowing upon them. Your last shall be examined.

H. A. F.—We quite agree with your animadversions on the culpable remissness shown by the officers of those who undertake the offices of Presidents and Secretaries of our Chess-clubs, and are surprised that such a number of them do not interest themselves in general chess, from occupying such reasonable situations, who either for want of time, or want of industry, so inadequately fulfil the duties they undertake. If our request that the heads of each club would furnish us, as it is manifestly both their interest and duty to do, with the names and places of meeting of their several clubs, had been properly responded to, we should ere this have been in a position to publish a complete list, with full particulars, of all the chess societies in the kingdom.

SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 466, by P. P., Mediens, R. A., F. R. S., Subaltern, Memphis, Sphyinx, T. T. M., are correct.

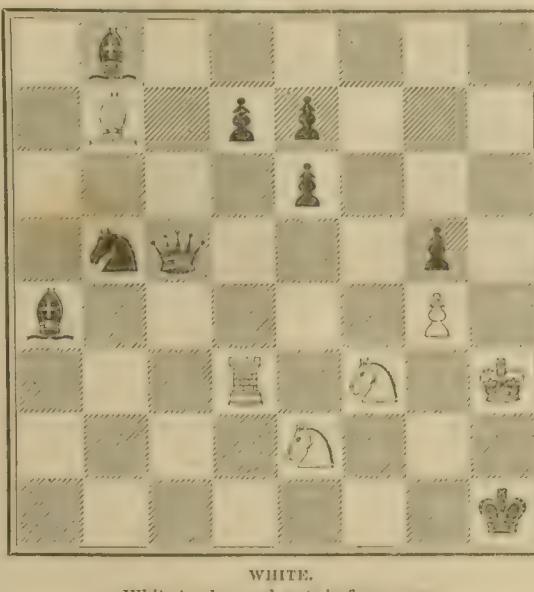
SOLUTIONS OF PROBLEM No. 467, by H. F. N.; 48, Sankey-street; M. P., G. T., Rex, Memphis, Ernest, Hack-forward, A Sailor, Bombardier, Boldon; E. T. H., of Blackford; T. A., Jack of Shrewsbury, T. J., of Hanworth, are correct.

SOLUTIONS OF ENIGMAS by P. P., E. W. H., A. Baller, Philo-Chess, Mediens, Vida, Kent's Green, are correct.

## PROBLEM No. 468.

By Mr. GRIMSHAW, of York.—A capital Chess manœuvre.

BLACK.



WHITE.

White to play, and mate in four moves.

## CHESS IN THE METROPOLIS.

Fine game just played in a match between Herr Löwenthal and Mr. Brien, of Oxford. The former giving the odds of "the exchange," that is, his Queen's Rook, for the adversary's Queen's Knight.

(Before playing the game, the reader must be careful to remove Black's Q R, and White's Q Kt from the board.)

BLACK (Mr. L.) WHITE (Mr. B.)

1. P to K 4th P to K 4th  
2. Kt to K B 3rd P to Q 3rd  
3. P to Q 4th P takes P  
4. B to Q B 4th B to K 2nd  
5. P to Q B 3rd P takes P  
6. Q Kt takes P P to Q B 3rd  
7. Q to her Kt 3rd Q to her Kt 3rd  
8. B takes K B 1P (ch) K to B sq  
9. B takes Kt It takes B  
10. Q to her B 4th Q to her B 4th  
11. Q to her Kt 3rd P to Q Kt 4th  
12. B to K 3rd Q to her B 5th  
13. Q to her B 2nd P to Q Kt 5th (a)  
14. Q to her R 4th B to K B 3rd  
15. K to K 2m P takes Q Kt  
16. P takes B Q takes Q B P  
17. Q to her B 4th Q to her B 4th  
18. Kt to K B 3rd B to Q 2d  
19. It to Q B sq Q to K B 3rd  
20. Kt to K Kt 5th Q to K Kt 3rd  
21. P to K B 4th P to K B 3rd  
22. P to K B 5th Q to K sq  
23. B to K B 4th (c) Q to K 2nd (d)  
24. R to Q sq P to Q 4th  
25. Kt to K B 3rd P to Q B 4th  
26. Q to her B 2nd P to Q 5th  
27. Kt to K 5th B to K sq  
28. P to K B 6th (e) P takes P (f)  
29. B takes K R P (ch) to K Kt 2nd

And the game was drawn.

(a) The game now assumes an interesting aspect. Without great caution on Black's part it is obvious he will lose his Kt.

(b) This appears his best resource. If he had moved the Kt to Q 2nd, White would have retired his Queen to her R 3rd, and have retarded Black's Castling.

(c) A very fine move. The object of which the student should endeavour to discover himself.

(d) If White had taken the Kt, the following moves will prove that he must have lost the game.

BLACK. WHITE.

23. B takes P K takes Kt  
24. Kt to K 2nd (ch) B to K 3rd  
25. Q to her Kt 3rd (ch) K to B 3rd (test)

And White has no resource.

(e) This critical portion of the game is played with great cleverness by Mr. L.

(f) If he had taken the Pawn with his Queen, he would have lost her. Thus—

BLACK. WHITE.

25. P takes Kt K to B 5th (ch)  
26. P to K 5th (ch) K takes Kt P  
27. Q to K 2nd (ch) K to B 6th  
28. P to K Kt 4th

And White has no resource.

(g) Threatening to take the Queen's Pawn with his Rook.

(h) Intending to take the King's Rook with the Bishop, and then play Q to K Kt 4th.

(i) If Mr. Brien had played his Queen to her R 3rd, he would have lost his Kt.

(j) Again White plays wrongly. If he had now moved his King to Kt 5th, instead of retreating him, Black could not have saved the game.

(m) Once more, Mr. Brien had the victory in his hands. He should have played the King to B 5th, and it will be found he could have won.

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THE HALIFAX ST. GEORGE'S CHESS-CLUB.—The annual meeting of the above society was held at the White Lion Hotel, on Wednesday evening the 4th of January, when a highly satisfactory report of the progress of the club was laid before the members by the secretary and treasurer, showing that the numerical strength of the club had been increased fully one-third since its formation in December, 1851; and, during the past year, the club had been honoured by the presence of H. Staunton, Esq., the chess champion; and Herr Löwenthal, the celebrated Hungarian chess-player, who have both been elected honorary members of the club. The total expenses consequent upon the purchase of handsome tables and chairs, and the other requisite furniture, the club being founded on the same principles as the original Halifax Chess-club, which was founded in 1816, and dissolved in January, 1817; and of which Mr. Crofton, the president of the Halifax St. George's Chess-club, was the president in 1840, to October, 1846. A vote of thanks was unanimously passed to the officers, who were requested to continue their services for the current year.



ENTERTAINMENT TO THE PATIENTS, AT THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM, COLNEY HATCH.

## NEW YEAR'S FESTIVAL AT COLNEY HATCH.

ONE of the most interesting features of the non-restraint system of treatment of lunatics is the celebration of periodical festivals, in which the patients are allowed to participate; and such rational recreation, doubtless, in many instances, induces habitual cheerfulness, and thus proves one of the aids by which the moody sufferer is often restored to reason. An entertainment of this description was given to the patients in the Middlesex County Lunatic Asylum, Colney Hatch, on Tuesday evening, the 4th inst. The numbers of the patients present were—males, 200; females, 327.

Several of the committee of visiting justices and other magistrates of the county, with their friends, and many of the neighbouring gentry with their families, to the number of upwards of 100, were present. The entertainment consisted of a few tableaux, performed by the officers of the establishment, accompanied by music; also, solo singing by several patients; dancing in character, Ethiopian serenading, by attendants and servants, &c. The patients partook of tea, cakes, fruit, and spiced beer; and afterwards danced together. The festival was given in the exerc-

cising-hall of the institution; the room was gaily decorated with flags, and a temporary theatre was built for the occasion, these preparations being entirely the work of the officers and patients. The cost of the whole, including refreshments, did not exceed £30.

## NEW COINAGE FOR CAMBOJA.

BIRMINGHAM bids fair to *mint* money for all the world; and we have now to add to its long list the kingdom of Camboja, for which the specimen here Engraved has lately been executed. The Sovereign of that country, a short time since, sent an order to Messrs. W. P. Hammond and Co., London, per Sir J. José d'Almeida and Sons, of Singapore, for the manufacture at Birmingham of a complete set of coining machinery, intended to constitute the Royal Mint of Camboja; and the accompanying Illustration is taken from proof impressions of the dies; the entire die being sunk in exact imitation of ivory copies designed by native artists, and forwarded for this purpose by his Majesty of Camboja. On the obverse of the coin is the image of the Malay cock, which appears to re-

joice in the possession of only one leg. The cock is the heraldic emblem of the Malays, and constitutes the supporters to the Royal arms of Camboja.

The reverse of the coin represents the entrance to one of the principal religious temples of the country; and, in conjunction with the cock, is emblematical of civil and religious supremacy.

This coinage is remarkable, chiefly as being, we believe, the first ever executed in Europe by order of any Sovereign in the China Seas; and is interesting as evidencing the progress of civilisation in those parts of the world, as well as showing a disposition on the part of this Malayo-Chinese nation to admit the superiority of Europeans in the arts; and to concede, though possibly unwillingly, the fact that the "Fangqui" or "white-devil" nation, as our Celestial brethren complimentarily term us, are, after all, not altogether the barbarians they once thought us.

The kingdom of Camboja is situated between the two more powerful states of Siam and Cochin China, the rulers of which countries have, in accordance with the most approved Oriental fashion, availed themselves, at various times during the past century, of the comparatively weak Government of Camboja to appropriate large slices of that country. This course, which is perhaps not without its counterpart in Europe, has deprived the Cambodian monarch of the greater portion of his former



NEW COINAGE FOR CAMBOJA.

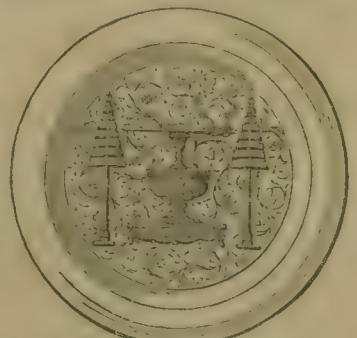
sea-coast possessions; leaving him still, however, the mouths of the magnificent river, the "Mackhaun," equal in size to the Danube, and flowing through one of the finest plains in the world. The capital of Camboja is Kongpoor, computed to contain half a million of inhabitants.

Camboja is only separated from the Burman territories (the seat of our present hostilities) by the kingdom of Siam; and being situated about midway between Rangoon and Canton, is destined, possibly, to become of much greater importance than at present.

## OFFICIAL SEAL FOR THE VICE-KING OF SIAM.

THIS is another instance of the employment of British art for official purposes in the East; the accompanying Illustration representing the impression of a new Seal lately manufactured by Mr. P. G. Dodd, of 79, Cornhill, for the Second or Vice-King of Siam. The coat of arms has on either side standard supporters, each representing seven distinct tiers of umbrellas; and the middle part, or shield, is composed of a native hair-pin on top, next a small vase, a larger vase, and a stand. The Siamese denote their rank by trifles: for instance, the addition of fringe to the umbrellas would be *anti-Royal*.

The arms are cut on a pure specimen of yellow amethyst, and set in elaborately wrought massive standard gold scroll-work, surmounted by two shifting handles; the principle handle is formed of a choice specimen of faceted cairn-goram; the other, of carved ivory. This jewel seal cost seventy guineas, complete; and the same manufacturer has executed a ring of similar excellence, for the finger of the King.



OFFICIAL SEAL FOR THE VICE-KING OF SIAM.



LANDSLIP UPON THE SOUTH DEVON RAILWAY, BETWEEN DAWLISH AND TEIGNMOUTH.—(SEE PRECEDING PAGE.)

EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF  
LORD HARDINGE.

THIS noble group of sculpture is the work of Mr. J. H. Foley; and is the result of a subscription raised in India, and commenced shortly after the battle of the Sutlej; to commemorate the gallant services of Lord Viscount Hardinge in those important actions, and his Lordship's able government of our Indian Empire. The height of the statue is 13 feet 4 inches. We understand it is intended to be erected upon a pedestal of red granite, 10 feet high; thus making the height of the entire group 23 feet 4 inches.

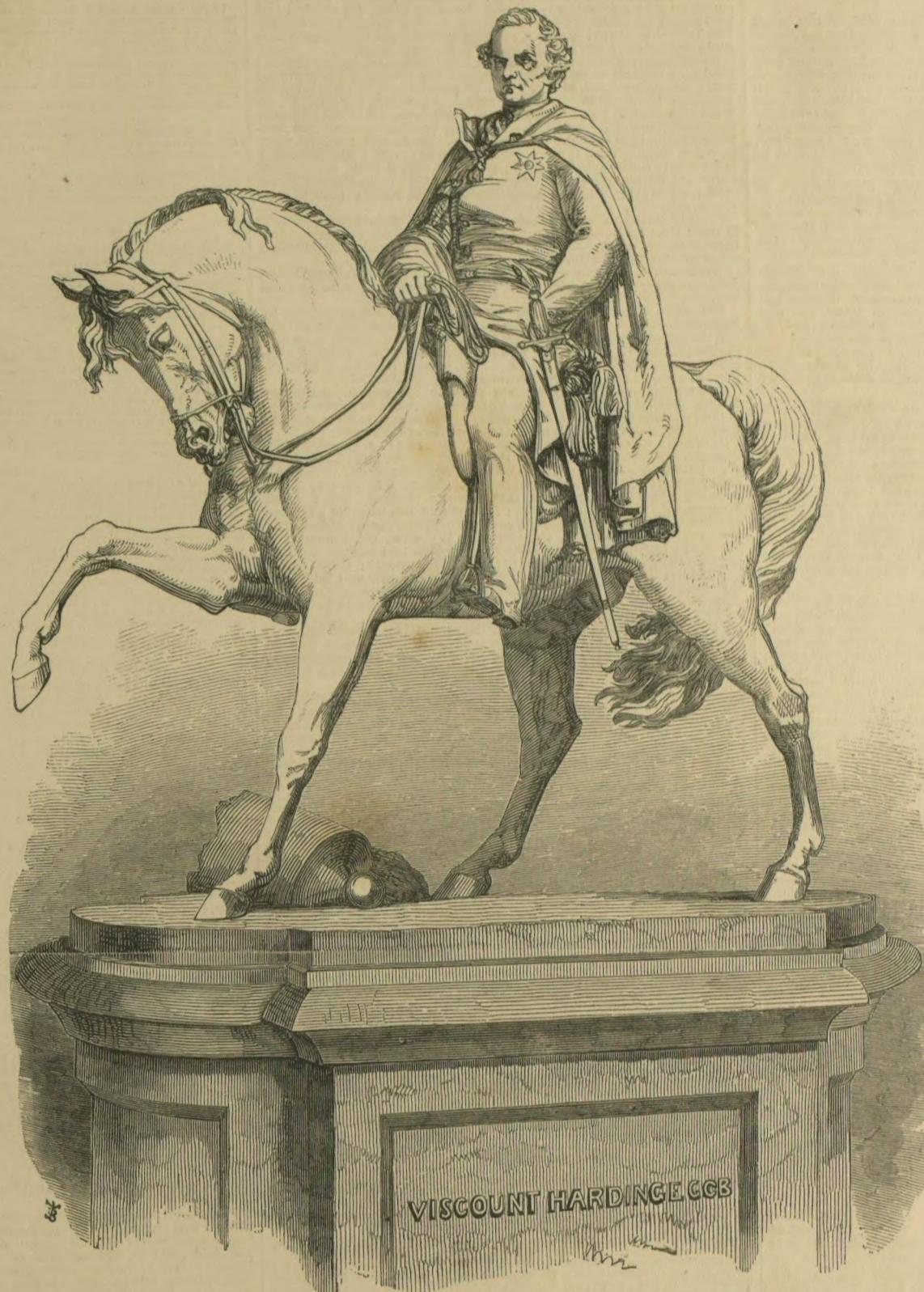
Mr. Foley has modelled the horse from Lord Hardinge's favourite Arab, "Meanee," which bore his Lordship through all his Indian battles, and escaped unhurt, with the exception of a slight skin-wound in the chest, occasioned by a shot. The animal is still full of fire, and the sculptor has sought, in his design, to express the characteristic eagerness for action in this noble war-horse.

## ATHENS.

THE city of Athens, towards the close of last October, was the scene of a violent hurricane; and among its devastating effects was the unroofing of the British Chapel, the following details of which will be read with interest, more especially by "the many travellers who have witnessed the toleration of the Greeks in allowing our services to be performed with bell rung and open doors, and the many who have for years seen the exact and uninterrupted discharge of the duties of the British chaplain," by whom the following particulars of the storm have been communicated to a friend in London:—

On the 26th October there occurred in this city a storm of wind and rain, increasing to a gale at nine P.M., and to a hurricane from ten to half-past eleven. The streets of Athens presented the next morning a scene of desolation, being strewed with branches of trees, tiles, glass, sign-boards, cornices, &c. Upon repairing to our church (which I knew was exposed to the southerly gale) I found a deplorable state of things: the whole of the roof of the south-west side, and great part of that on the north-east, had been torn off, the windows broken, and the few trees we had round it torn up by the roots. Inside, of course, desolation reigned. A river of water was running down the pulpit steps, the font half full of rain water, sand, &c.; the damage done to the church alone being estimated at several thousand drachmas. Panagi, however, at the risk of a broken head, had gone early to the church, and remained there till midnight, and by his exertions the furniture was in a great measure preserved, as were also the books.

The Chapel, which has been thus desolated, is the small building, with a bell-tower, shown in the right side of the accompanying View of the city, from a calotype taken shortly before the late storm. We hope that the publication of the above details may induce our



STATUE OF VISCOUNT HARDINGE, BY J. H. FOLEY.

countrymen, by a small subscription, "to restore a sacred edifice where all the objects for which it has been erected have been carried out with a zeal and a discretion which does honour to all those concerned."

The writer of the above letter continues:—

Two of the columns of the Erechtheum on the west side have also fallen, and are broken in pieces. The two beautiful Cypresses, one by the Tower of the Winds, the other by the mosque in the Agora, are down; one of them snapped in two, ten feet from the ground. There was immense damage done to the Palace-garden, where all the large trees are down; the interior of the Palace greatly injured on the south side. (The Royal Palace is the extensive building nearly in the centre of the accompanying View). The large trees in the square, opposite the British Minister's, all blown down. At the Piraeus upwards of sixty caiques and boats are utterly destroyed. Two large merchant ships laden with corn are lost, and the *Amelia* corvette is wrecked on Salamis, having on board the families of several officers, including thirty-six women, and among them Rosa Botzaris, now Madame Caradjà. Two men were lost, but all the women were saved.

The fall of one of the columns of the Temple of Jupiter Olympius is then described. Of this catastrophe we have been favoured with the following account by an eye-witness, communicated to our Journal by Mr. W. H. Bellot, F.R.C.S.E., Surgeon Royal Cheshire Militia:—

On the night of the 26th of October the centre pillar of the three which formed a part of the inner south peristyle of the Temple of Jupiter Olympius, at Athens, was thrown down by a gale from the south-east. The column fell due north, and lies prostrate, the drums (the sections of the shaft) preserving nearly their relative positions, although separated. The lowest drum retains its situation on the base; the base and it being both inclined to the north, at an angle of, perhaps 45 degrees. The fallen pieces lie horizontally, and nearly touch each other, like bricks arranged to knock each other down in their fall. The upper half of the capital, with its Corinthian volutes, is completely capsized. The square marble base of the column rested upon two square courses of coarse lime-stone, two feet thick each course. The soil or earth giving way under the north side of the pillar, the course broke across from east to west; and when the column was inclined at a certain angle, the second drum (or section) slipped off the first or lowest, carrying with it all the upper column in one piece. The column fell at a right angle to the long diameter of the Temple, which lies east and west. The drums were each connected by two small iron bars, five inches long and an inch and a half square, fitted with lead into the marble, so as to prevent the oxidation of the iron discolouring the marble. These bars are either drawn from their sockets or broken across. The centres of the planes of the drums are left rough, and some have a square hole cut, which, perhaps, was for an iron bar. The iron bars used are placed near the circumference, opposite each other, in the line of a diameter of the circle. The pillar is capable of being re-erected.

THOMAS BELLOT, F.R.C.S.E., Surgeon, Royal Navy



ATHENS.—FROM A RECENT CALOTYPE.

## LAW AND POLICE INTELLIGENCE.

**NEW RULES.**—Lord Campbell, on taking his seat on the bench on Tuesday, said that he had the satisfaction to announce that the Judges had this day signed a body of new rules for regulating the practice of the three superior courts of common law in Westminster-hall. The new body of rules would be equally applicable to all the three superior courts, and were intended to establish a uniformity of practice, so far, at least, as the Judges had the power in themselves to establish it. Yet before the rules had agreed to could come into operation they must be laid before the two Houses of Parliament, and on the expiration of three months they would, unless disapproved of by either House of Parliament, become law, and come into actual operation; and he hoped that they would then be found materially to improve the administration of justice.

**THE LAW OF DIVORCE.**—A very important measure will be introduced in the House of Lords on the re-assembling of Parliament, by Lord Brougham, by which the present tedious system of divorce will be abolished, and a new statute framed, doing away entirely with the enormous fees which are now paid. By the new law, the proceedings in the Ecclesiastical Court, and also the action at law, will be dispensed with.

**THE QUART AND PINT BOTTLE QUESTION.**—At the Brentford Petty Sessions, Bayliss, of the Railway Hotel, at Twickenham, appeared to answer an information laid by the Inspector of Weights and Measures for selling a certain quantity of beer in quart and pint bottles which were not of the imperial measure. The Bench said, as hundreds of people with their eyes wide open were in the habit of purchasing these bottles, well knowing that they did not contain the full measure, they should not convict the defendant. The agents of the brewers who supplied the publicans were the parties in fault if any, and therefore the present information must be dismissed.

**MARYLEBONE.**—William Clarke, of the Jew's-Harp, Edward-street, Hampstead-road, has been fined £2 and costs, for keeping a disorderly house. The case excited a considerable degree of interest, inasmuch as it involved the question as to the legality of licensed victuallers having judge and jury clubs at their houses on Sunday evenings. Kelly, 24 S, deposed that at eight o'clock in the evening of Sunday, December the 26th, he went in plain clothes to defendant's house, and paid twopence for admission to a Judge and jury club, which was held upstairs. He there found about two hundred persons—men, women, and children; and in the centre of the room was a raised platform, so as to give a good idea of a court of law.—Mr. Long considered that the exhibition itself was calculated to bring the administration of justice into contempt; but, apart from all considerations of that nature, the holding of such meetings on a Sabbath evening was highly reprehensible.

**CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY AND ROBBERY.**—At Lambeth police-office, last week, Henry Goodsell Johnson, a military-looking man, well known in disreputable localities as "Captain" Johnson, was charged with conspiring with others, not in custody, to cheat and defraud Mrs. Sarah Stewart of railway shares worth £100; and with stealing two gold seals, a diamond ring, and other articles, her property. Mrs. Stewart, a widow, let part of her house at Islington, furnished; Johnson applied to see the apartments; he gave a reference to the Prince of Wales Hotel, Alr-street; there, a woman, supposed to be the hostess, gave him an excellent character; Mrs. Stewart was deceived, and accepted the man as a lodger. Johnson pretended that he was a nephew of Lord Palmerston, and showed a letter which he said he had received from his uncle. The rogue was so plausible that he obtained considerable influence over his landlady; he even offered to marry her, which she treated as a joke. However, as he was short of money for a time, she lent him, by instalments, £180. He advised her to sell her railway shares, as he could put her in a way to make better use of the money—bring it into a "focus," so that she might more easily calculate her income. The confiding landlady was weak enough to give him authority to sell the shares; and he was to deposit the proceeds in the London and Westminster Bank; instead of doing so, he kept possession of the money, and by a trick managed to carry off his property from Mrs. Stewart's house, and some of hers too. He wrote a note, saying he was gone to Brussels. He was discovered at Grosvenor-park, Camberwell, living with a woman, supposed to be his wife, in grand style. The police had their suspicions excited by his changing a great many fifty-pound notes in the neighbourhood. Under examination, Johnson treated the matter very coolly. On the re-examination on Wednesday last further evidence corroborated the charge, with this singular additional one:—Mr. John Haward, of Biddenham, near Bedford, said that, in 1845, the prisoner took a house belonging to him at Bedford, representing himself to be the son of a Capt. Johnson, who had lived at Bedford some years before, and his story was believed. Having been a great favourite in the place, the prisoner got into excellent society, and, without having paid a single crown to a single soul, he managed to fleece the tradesmen in the town to the tune of upwards of £700. On one occasion the prisoner did him (Mr. Haward) the honour of paying him a visit, and, swaggering into his counting-house, told him he should make him his banker (Laughter, in which the prisoner joined); and, by his specious manner, managed to do him out of £80, besides his rent. Mr. Elliott expressed it to be his intention to send the prisoner for trial on the charge of Mrs. Stewart; and if the representations of Mr. Haward should be borne out by evidence, he should commit him on these charges also; and, therefore, remanded him for a future day, to have the evidence taken in proper order. The prisoner seemed much surprised and chap-fallen, and was removed.

A robbery, to the extent of £700, was committed on Friday, the 7th, in the house of Mr. Prince, a fancy bazaar-keeper, Beckford-row, Walworth-road, consisting of watches, jewellery, &c. A man, named Frederick Butler, has since been examined and remanded, on suspicion of being concerned in it.

**FORGERIES IN THE CORN TRADE.**—During the last few days a case of great magnitude has been brought to light. Robert Ferdinand Pries, of Grove-road, Brixton, has been examined on a charge of uttering forged bills of lading, by which he obtained £18,000, and other amounts, in all £35,000. The evidence was very clear, and, among other things, was a letter to his wife, in which he "expressed his sorrow for having deceived his wife, called upon her to look with care to their children, and intimated that it was his intention to put an end to himself." This letter was afterwards burned. Pries, however, took another course, and was arrested at the North-Western Railway at nine o'clock, just as the train was about to start. When stopped, the officer demanded his property, and the prisoner gave up a carpet-bag, containing new clothes, and also a canvas bag, containing £101 11s. 9d. The prisoner was remanded. On this important matter the papers of Tuesday state:—"The failure of Messrs. Collman and Stolterfoht, with liabilities to the amount of between £300,000 and £400,000, has been announced on 'Change. Their suspension has arisen in consequence of heavy losses sustained by advances on what have proved to be forged securities."

## MONETARY TRANSACTIONS OF THE WEEK.

(From our City Correspondent.)

The late advance in the rates of discount by the Bank Directors, though viewed as a precautionary measure, had considerable influence upon the Consol Market in the early part of the week, especially as it was stated in some quarters that a further rise would take place in them. The national securities, consequently, fluctuated to some extent; but they steadily recovered themselves on Thursday afternoon, when it became known that the "Parlour" had broken up without any increase in discounts being agreed upon. A portion of the speculative body have contended that great injury will be inflicted upon the trade and commerce of the country from the recent division of the Directors; but surely they must be aware that our trade with the Continent is so much against us, that it promises to absorb a very large portion of our bullion. A decrease in the stock of five or six millions would lead to much higher discount quotations, and inevitably check our present onward progress as a nation.

The Board of Trade returns for the month, ending on the 5th ult., show an increase in the total shipments of British-manufactured goods of £914,478. During the eleven months of last year, the exports were valued at £65,349,798, against £63,314,272 in the same period in 1852—showing an increase of £2,055,526.

Several parcels of stock for the reduction of the National Debt have been purchased above par. On Monday, Bank Stock was 224. The Three per Cents Reduced marked 101 1/2; the Three per Cent. Consols, 100 3/4; and the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 104 3/4; Consols for Account being 100 1/2. Long Annuities, 1860, were 64; India Bonds, 78s.; and Exchequer Bills, 67s. to 70s. premium. The market on Tuesday and Wednesday was very flat, and prices tended downwards—the Three per Cents having gone down to 100 for Money. Numerous fluctuations took place in the quotations on Thursday, from causes already explained. The Three per Cent Consols opened heavily, at 99 1/2; but they subsequently recovered to 100, rather buyers. The Three per Cents Reduced were 100 1/2; the New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 104 3/4; and Consols for Account, 99 1/2. For the 18th inst., Consols were 99 1/2. India Stock was 273 to 274. India Bonds marked 77 79; and Exchequer Bills, 67s. to 70s. premium. South Sea Stock marked 110.

In addition the Australian supply of gold, £324,000 has been reported from Mexico, the West Indies, &c., and 104,000 dollars from New York. The shipments to the Continent have been on the increase.

Large amounts of paper, first-class, have been discounted by the Bank of England, this week, at its minimum rate—viz., two-and-a-half per cent per annum. In Lombard-street, good paper is done at two-and-a-quarter to two-and-three-quarters per cent.

Although 48,000 dollars have come to hand on account of the Mexican Dividends, that stock has ruled heavy. All other foreign securities have met a very inactive market, and prices have not been supported. Turkish Loan has been done at 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 premium; and Swedish, 1 1/2 discount. On Thursday, Brazilian Bonds, Small, were 103; Grenada Deferred, 12 1/2 to

12; Mexican Three per Cents, 23 1/2; Peruvian Six per Cents, 103; Ditto, Three per Cents Deferred, 64; Portuguese Four per Cents, 104; Sardinian Five per Cents, 95; Spanish Three per Cents, 48 1/2 ex div.; and Dutch Four per Cents, 98 1/2. Bargains have been concluded in Danish, Five per Cents, at 108; Ecuador, 54; Russian Four-and-a-Half per Cents 104 to 102 1/2 ex div.; and Dutch Two-and-a-Half per Cents, 66 1/2.

**MISCELLANEOUS.**—Shares have been tolerably firm. Australian Agricultural have been 255 to 265; Peel River Land and Mineral, 94 to 10 prem.; South Australian Land, 64 to 66; Van Diemen's Land, 19 to 21; British American Land, 56 to 60; North British Australian, 1 prem.; Union Bank of Australia, 72 1/2 to 73 1/2; Bank of Australasia, 82 1/2 to 83 1/2; London Chartered Bank of Australia, 27 1/2 to 28 1/2 prem.; English, Scottish, and Australian Bank, 14 to 15 prem.; Bank of India, China, and Australia, 1 1/2 to 2 1/2; Great Nugget Vein, 4 1/2 prem.; Port Phillip, 1 1/2 prem.; Australian, 4 to 5 prem.; Australian, 2 prem.; Australian Royal Mail, 4 1/2; Crystal Palace, 5 1/2; Eastern Steam, 2 1/2 to 2 1/2 prem.; General Screw Steam, 50 1/2 to 51 1/2; Peninsular and Oriental Steam, 90 1/2 to 91; Royal Mail Steam, 80 1/2 to 81.

From the latest exchanges, we perceive that gold is 0.58 per cent. dearer in Paris than in London; and 0.41 dearer at Hamburg than here. It is cheaper by 0.42 per cent at New York than in London; but the profit on shipments is trifling in the extreme.

The failure of Collman and Stolterfoht—a firm largely engaged in the foreign corn trade—has been productive of much uneasiness in some quarters.

The last weekly statement of the Bank of England is distinguished by important changes. In the issue department the notes decreased £57,520, and the amount reserved in the "til" being lessened £885,925; the active circulation payable on demand was larger by £828,005. The bullion in both departments amounted to £20,527,662, being a decrease of £21,528. Private securities continue large, the amount being £15,875,756.

Numerous fluctuations have taken place in the market for Railway Shares. Parties buying and selling have, of course, been greatly guided in their operations by the value of money. The traffic receipts are still good. The following are the official closing prices on Thursday:—

**ORDINARY SHARES AND STOCKS.**—Aberdeen, 30 1/2; Ambergate, Nottingham, and Boston Junction, 6 1/2; Bristol and Exeter, 10 1/2; Caledonian, 67; Eastern Counties, 13 1/2; Eastern Union, 10; Ditto, B and C, 4 1/2; East Lancashire, 75; Great Northern Stock, 70; Ditto, A Stock, 40 1/2; Ditto, B Stock, 120 1/2; Great Southern and Western (Ireland), 105 1/2; Great Western, 92 1/2; Leeds Northern, 16 1/2; London and Brighton, 107; London and North-Western, 124 1/2; London and South-Western, 91 1/2; Manchester, 29 1/2; Midland, 79; ditto, Birmingham and Derby, 47; North British, 38; North Staffordshire, 13 1/2; Scottish Midland, 63; Shrewsbury and Birmingham, 67; South-Eastern, 81 1/2; South Wales, 38; Thames Haven, Dock, and Railway, 24; Waterford and Kilkenny, 9 1/2; York, Newcastle, and Berwick, 71; ditto, G. N. E. Purchase, 9 1/2.

**LINES LEASED AT FIXED RENTALS.**—East Lincolnshire, 140 1/2; Lowestoft, 19 1/2; South Staffordshire, 9.

**PREMIUM SHARES.**—Bristol and Exeter, 110; Caledonian, 106; Eastern Counties Six per Cent, 14 1/2; Great Northern, 127; Great Western (Four-and-a-Half per Cents), 109; Manchester, Sheffield, and Lincolnshire, 12 1/2; Consolidated Bristol and Birmingham, 151 1/2; Norfolk Extension, 23 1/2; North British, 101; South-Eastern, 26.

**FOREIGN.**—Dijon and Erquelinnes, 6 1/2; East Indian, 2 1/2; Great Indian Peninsula, 7 1/2; Grand Junction of France, 7 1/2; Northern of France, 34 1/2; Paris and Lyons, 25 1/2; Quebec and Richmond, 3 1/2; Rouen and Havre, 20 1/2; Sambre and Meuse, 9 1/2; Western of France, 18 1/2.

Gold Mining Shares have given way to some extent, with a heavy market. Agua Fria, 1 1/2; Anglo-Californian, 14; Ave Maria, 1 1/2; Port Phillip, 2 1/2; West Grenada, 1 1/2; West Mariposa, 1 1/2.

**FRIDAY EVENING.**—Consols have been exceedingly flat to-day, at barely yesterday's decline. The unfavourable advices from Paris, and the continuous shipments of bullion to the Continent, are the leading causes of the present depression in our Market. The Three per Cents have been done at 99 1/2; Three per Cents Reduced, 100 1/2; New Three-and-a-Quarter per Cents, 103 1/2 to 104 1/2; and Consols for Account, 99 1/2. In the Unfunded Debt very little is doing. Foreign Bonds and Railway Shares are heavy.

## THE MARKETS.

**CORN EXCHANGE (Friday).**—During the present week the arrivals of English wheat up to our market constiue have been very moderate, viz., 2010 quarters, chiefly from Essex and Kent. Fresh up to-day the supply from land carriage was small; hence the show of samples of both red and white was trifling. Selected qualities were scarce, and quite as dear as on Monday; the middling kinds sold slowly, at barely late rates. A few parcels changed hands for forward delivery. Only 1280 quarters of foreign wheat have come to hand this week. There was rather more inquiry for good heavy parcels, at full currencies. All other kinds were held at previous rates. The market for oats was done out. We find very sparingly supplied with both English and foreign barley. Fine middling parcels were very 1 1/2 per cent dearer than last week; and there was rather more doing in middling and distilling sorts. Malt—the supply of which was very moderate—sold slowly, at late figures. The amount of business doing in oats was trifling, owing to the want of supply. Prices were firmly supported in every instance. In beans, peas, and flour no change took place.

**ARRIVALS.**—English: wheat, 2010; barley, 1220; malt, 1030; oats, 250; flour, 900. Foreign: wheat, 1290; flour, 1310 sacks, 2100 barrels.

**English.**—Wheat, Essex and Kent, red, 43s. 53s.; ditto, white, 41s. to 60s.; Norfolk and Suffolk, red, 38s. to 53s.; ditto, white, 44s. to 57s.; rye, 28s. to 30s.; grinding barley, 26s. to 28s.; middling ditto, 27s. to 29s.; malting ditto, 33s. to 35s.; London and Norfolk malt, 51s. to 52s.; brown ditto, 50s. to 54s.; Kildare and Ware, 57s. to 61s.; Chevalier, 60s. to 63s.; Yorkshire and Lincolnshire feed corn, 17s. to 22s.; golden ditto, 21s. to 24s.; Youghal and Cork, black, 17s. to 20s.; ditto, white, 18s. to 22s.; their beans, new, 31s. to 32s.; old, 32s. to 35s.; grey peas, 31s. to 33s.; maple, 31s. to 36s.; white beans, 30s. to 38s.; boilers, 37s. to 40s. per quarter. Town made flour, 41s. to 46s.; Suffolk, 32s. to 35s.; Stockton and Yorkshire, 34s. to 37s. per 250 lbs. Foreign: American flour, 23s. to 25s. per barrel; French, 31s. to 38s. per sack.

**Seeds.**—Rapeseed is held for more money, with a good inquiry. Linseed and eakes are quite as dear as last week. In the value of other articles we have no change to notice.

**English.**—Wheat, 30s. to 32s.; hempseed, 37s. to 40s.; Mediterranean and Odessa, 48s. to 52s.; hempseed, 37s. to 41s. per quarter; Coriander, 9s. to 12s. per cwt. Brown mustard, 38s. to 40s.; white, ditto, 38s. to 40s.; tares, 4s. 6d. to 5s. per bushel. English rapeseed, 22s. to 24s. per cwt. of ten quarters. Linseed eakes, English, 2s. 6d. to 10s. per ton. Canary, 38s. to 42s. per quarter.

**Bread.**—The price of wheat bread in the metropolis are from 7d. to 7d.; of household ditto, 5d. to 6d. per 4 lbs. loaf.

**Imperial Weekly Average.**—Wheat, 46s.; barley, 29s. 8d.; oats, 18s. 6d.; rye, 29s. 1d.; beans, 31s. 8d.; peas, 32s. 5d.

**The Six Weeks' Average.**—Wheat, 44s. 3d.; barley, 29s. 9d.; oats, 18s. 6d.; rye, 29s. 2d.; beans, 32s.; peas, 32s. 4d.

**Duties.**—Wheat, 1s.; barley, 1s.; oats, 1s.; rye, 1s.; beans, 1s.; peas, 1s.

**Tea.**—The show of samples in the private market continue good, yet a full average business is doing in many kinds of tea, at full quotations. Common sound congo is selling as from 10s. to 12s. 6d. per cwt.

**Sugar.**—East India qualities have mostly sold at full rates of currencies; but Bengal and Mauritius have given way 6d. per cwt., to 10s.; Madras, 6d. to 10s.; Ceylon, 6d. to 12s.; Kildare and Ware, 57s. to 61s.; Chevalier, 60s. to 63s.; York, 57s. to 61s.; black, 57s. to 61s.; white, ditto, 57s. to 61s.; tares, 4s. 6d. to 5s. per cwt. English rapeseed, 22s. to 24s. per cwt. of ten quarters. Linseed eakes, English, 2s. 6d. to 10s. per ton. Canary, 38s. to 42s. per quarter.

**Bacon.**—A steady business is doing, at 4s. to 46s. 6d. on the spot. The nearest quotation for forward delivery is 46s. Town tallow 46s. per cwt. net cash; rough fat, 2s. 7d. per 8 lbs. Oils.—Linseed oil is in good request, from 30s. to 31s. 6d. per cwt. All other oils are active, and somewhat dearer.

**Spirits.**—Rum continues to move off freely, on higher terms. Proof Leewards, 1s. 11d. to 1s. 12d.; East India, 1s. 10d. to 1s. 11d.; and Havannah, 1s. 9d. to 1s. 10d. per gallon.

**Wine.**—A steady business is doing, at 2s. 6d. to 2s. 11d. per gallon.

**Wool.**—English parcels have advanced 4d. per lb. In foreign and colonial qualities next to weekly.

**Potatoes.**—Fine samples are scarce, and quoted at 12s. to 14s. per ton. Other kinds are plentiful, and in very moderate request. The imports from the Continent are about 1000 tons weekly.

**Hops (Friday).**—Our market continues to be moderately supplied with all new hops, in which a fair average business is done, at full prices.—Mid



(Continued from page 46.)  
stances which led her to write her very popular work:-

"Long before it was ever written down at all," she says, "it was told to a circle of children, and then, as fast as it was written, it was read to them; and there was a great deal of laughing and crying among these children, you may be sure, and a great deal of hurrying that it might be got through with. So you see, the story belongs to children very properly. In the dear little *Eva*, you have before you the picture of a Christian child. Learn of her, dear children, to be as thoughtful, as kind to every creature, however poor and lowly, as she was; learn always to speak and act kindly and gently to every one, whatever their condition in life may be, and try to do all the little good that lies in a child's power."

#### BANQUET TO THE AMERICAN MINISTER AT MANCHESTER.

MANCHESTER has closely followed the example of Liverpool in giving a hearty welcome to Mr. Ingersoll. The new Minister from the United States arrived at Manchester on Friday morning (last week), and, in company with the Mayor, proceeded to visit some of the largest industrial establishments in the borough. In the evening his Excellency was entertained at a banquet in the Town-hall, which was elegantly fitted up for the occasion. The Royal arms, carved, gilded, and embazoned, were displayed over the entrance-door of the rooms, and were flanked by the Royal standard and the British ensign. A carved silver plume of the Prince of Wales, with his motto, "Ich dien," was placed over the other entrance door, flanked by the British flag and the star-spangled banner of the United States. The company included some of the most influential merchants and manufacturers of Manchester. The Mayor (Mr. R. Barnes) presided, on whose right sat the Hon. J. R. Ingersoll; and there were also present the Lord Bishop of Manchester, Mr. John Bright, M.P., Mr. T. Bazley, President of the Manchester Chamber of Commerce; Mr. James Heywood, M.P.; Mr. J. Cheetam, M.P.; Mr. C. Hindley, M.P.; Mr. W. Brown, M.P.; Mr. J. A. Turner, President of the Manchester Commercial Association; Mr. Brotherton, M.P.; the Mayors of Liverpool, Warrington, Wigan, Bolton, Stockport, &c.; Messrs. R. H. Greg, Salis Schwabe, E. Loyd, Jun., A. Henry, W. Entwistle, W. Fairbairn, F.R.S., R. Birley, R. N. Philips, H. Ashworth, the Ottoman Consul, &c.

It was announced that addresses of congratulation to his Excellency had been unanimously agreed to by the Chamber of Commerce and the Commercial Association. The health of the guest of the evening having been proposed by the chairman, coupled with the wish that the "close and intimate relations now happily existing between the people of this country and the United States, may be perpetual!"

His Excellency, Mr. Ingersoll, made an eloquent speech in acknowledgment of the toast. He touched upon the amazing progress in population and wealth of Manchester and the surrounding country, and showed how the prosperity of the United States, and the prosperity of Manchester depended upon one another. America produced 3,000,000 bales of cotton per annum, two-thirds of which were taken by this country: nor was there much danger for a century or two to come that India or Egypt would rival America either in the actual product of the long staple or the quality. Here then was ground for supposing that the harmonious intercourse between the two countries, founded upon original family affection, would be continued by such signal benefits given upon the one side and reciprocated upon the other. But perhaps

the most valuable portion of his Excellency's speech had reference to the subject of education. We claim the privilege of telling our brethren across the Atlantic some harsh and disagreeable truths about the existence of slavery in the United States. Mr. Ingersoll, on the other hand, tells us how infinitely behind his countrymen we are in providing means and facilities for popular education. "You have, in England indeed (he said), some higher courses of education than those given in most colleges and places of education in the United States; but the system of popular education that abounds there might perhaps be familiarly known to you, not without advantage. Our common schools are attended, so far as most of the States go, by every poor individual, every child of a poor man, that chooses to attend them; and an education

sufficient for all the purposes of life is given, so that there were two years ago—and of course there are more now—4,000,000 individuals going through a course of instruction in the United States, or about one-fifth of the inhabitants of the country. I speak for my own particular place of residence, Philadelphia, where I say there are 50,000 poor individuals at this moment who are educated at these public schools, without any cost to the parents, most of them being unable to pay anything for them." Mr. Ingersoll also adverted to the magnificent provision made for education by the late Stephen Girard, called the Girard College of Orphans in Philadelphia; and also to the Houses of Refuge, where the very young, who are either exposed to the actual commission of crime, or liable to the temptation of crime, are withdrawn from evil example, and placed where they can be partially educated and instructed in some trade.

Mr. Bright subsequently addressed the company, and replied to some remarks made by the Earl of Derby, at the Liverpool dinner to his Excellency. Lord Derby, in his happiest manner, had vindicated the institution of an hereditary peerage. The good sense of both nations had known how to qualify and moderate the contrary and opposite extremes which threatened danger to their respective liberties. England had curbed the power of the monarchy and aristocracy, while the United States had a counterpoise to the national will in the American Senate, which checked the tendency to an unbridled democracy. Mr. Bright now protested against the soundness of Lord Derby's argument, and the justice of a parallel which seemed to imply that the people of England have in their House of Lords, an assembly equal in wisdom, character, patriotism, and durability, with the Senate of the United States. The hon. member reminded his audience that the Americans "have education not thwarted by theology or by sects; that they have religion as much as we have, though no sect is dominant; that they have legal reforms, although they have no Lord Chancellor with £14,000 a year; that they have peace without any great standing army; that they have respect from all the nations of the world, without great squadrons on every coast; and, further, we may bear in mind that they have an admirable system of representation, without rotten boroughs; and when they have a general election, it is not a scene of general demoralisation through every portion of the country, as it unfortunately is with us."

The truth of these remarks cannot be seriously impugned: but the taste which led to the introduction of irritating topics at such a meeting has been rather sharply questioned. The American Minister, it is argued, ought not to be compelled to hear English politics discussed under the pretence of praising American institutions; and it is alleged that a check will be put upon these useful demonstrations of respect to the representative of the United States, if he is to be drawn into the

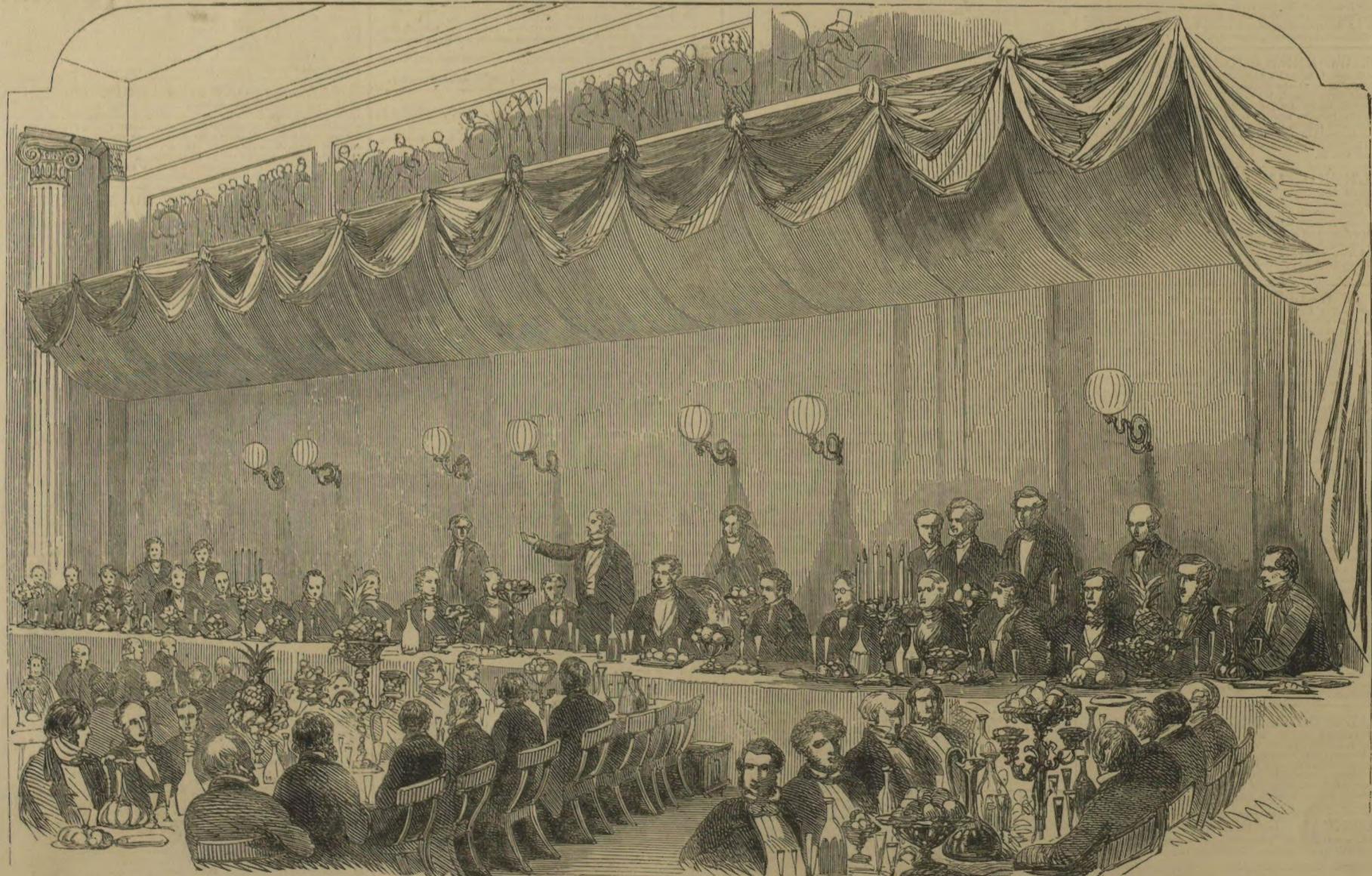
vortex of English party politics.

The banquets to Mr. Ingersoll at Liverpool and Manchester, and the crying and absolute social necessity which they disclose, for peace and harmonious intercourse between the two countries, have made an agreeable impression upon the public mind. The menacing debate in the American Senate on the relations between Great Britain and the United States, and the somewhat irritating speech of General Cass, were calculated to excite some misgivings, which have, however, been entirely allayed by the pacific sentiments uttered by our statesmen and merchants in the north of England.

The banquet, at Manchester, was provided by Mr. Johnson (from the Queen's Hotel), proprietor of the Queen's and Albion Hotels.



MRS. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE, AUTHOR OF "UNCLE TOM'S CABIN.  
FROM A DAGUERREOTYPE TAKEN AT NEW YORK.



BANQUET TO MR. INGERSOLL, THE AMERICAN MINISTER, IN THE TOWN-HALL, MANCHESTER.